

I. GENERAL OVERVIEW

The Fairfax County Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court is responsible for adjudicating juvenile matters, offenses committed by adults against juveniles, and family matters except divorce. The Court offers comprehensive services for delinquent youngsters under the legal age of 18 who live in Fairfax County, the City of Fairfax, and the towns of Herndon, Vienna, and Clifton. In addition, the Court provides services to adults in these jurisdictions who are experiencing domestic and/or familial difficulties that are amenable to unofficial arbitration, counseling, or legal intervention. The Court also provides services required in adult criminal complaints for offenses committed against juveniles unrelated to them.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Prior to 1956, all juvenile and domestic relations cases were heard by a County Court judge and all probation and investigation functions were handled by the County's Department of Public Welfare. In 1956, the County Board of Supervisors established a separate probation office for the Court with a Chief Probation Officer, three probation officers and two clerical staff. Court was in session one day a week with the Judge of the County Court presiding.

In 1962, the Court expanded hearings to three days a week, with each County Court judge sitting for one day. In 1965, the first full-time Juvenile Court Judge was appointed and Court met daily. By FY 1980, five full-time Judges were hearing cases. In FY1993, a sixth judge was approved by the State and in FY 1994, a seventh judge was approved.

The development of special programs to augment traditional probation services has been particularly important in the Court's development. Many of these innovations were made possible by the availability of federal grant funds and have subsequently been funded by the county. Specialized programs include the Informal Hearing Officer Program, the Work Training Program, the Community Services Project, Family Counseling, the

Diagnostic Team, Outreach Detention, the Less Secure Shelter, the Juvenile Detention Center, five different alternative schools, the Volunteer Learning Program, two Probation Houses, the School Probation Officer Program, and Traffic School.

ORGANIZATIONAL BACKGROUND

Due to space limitations in the Courthouse and a desire to provide more readily accessible services to the community, the Court decentralized its services throughout the county. A branch office opened in the northern part of the county in the spring of 1973 to provide intake, investigation, and probation functions. A second branch office with the same responsibilities was opened in the southern part of the county in late 1973. At the same time, Center County services were divided into two units. All probation and investigation services were organized into one unit while intake and support services were combined into another unit. An additional unit, Special Services, was established in the summer of 1973 to operate established programs such as group homes, family counseling, the work training program, probation houses and volunteer services.

The increase in complaints, approved fiscal plans, expenditures, revenues, and staffing levels for the past 7 years are shown in Figure 1. Figure 2 shows the trends in population levels and selected activity counts over the past 20 years. The significant increase in juvenile complaints in FY 1974 was largely a result of a change in the Code of Virginia which required the hearing of all traffic cases in the Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court beginning in September, 1973, rather than splitting the cases between the Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court and the General District Court. Some of the increase shown in FY 1977 may be attributable to the implementation of an automated information system, which resulted in more accurate counting procedures. Figure 3 shows the increase in daily court transactions from FY 1976 to FY 1997. During this period, daily court transactions have increased from an average of 52.5 per day in FY 1976 to an average of 206.0 per day in FY 1997.

FIGURE 1

COMPLAINTS, BUDGET AND PERSONNEL FAIRFAX COUNTY JUVENILE AND DOMESTIC RELATIONS DISTRICT COURT FY 1991-FY 1997

	FY91		FY92		FY93		FY94		FY95		FY96		FY97	
	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%
COMPLAINTS	28,181	7.3	29,090	3.2	28,612	(1.6)	29,534	3.2	31,862	7.9	33,201	4.2	29,449	(11.3)
Juvenile	21,790	6.2	22,107	1.5	20,534	(5.4)	21,568	5.0	23,496	8.9	24,148	2.8	21,535	(10.8)
Adult	6,391	11.2	6,983	9.3	8,078	15.7	7,966	(1.4)	8,366	5.0	9,053	8.2	7,914	(12.6)
APPROVED														
FISCAL PLAN	\$9,056,310	24.1	\$8,558,966	(5.5)	\$8,185,436	(4.4)	\$8,986,855	9.8	\$9,524,611	6.0	\$10,211,853	7.2	\$10,974,777	6.9
(excludes grants)														
Personal Services	7,164,174	26.0	7,174,239	0.1	6,777,049	(5.5)	7,628,760	12.6	8,052,479	5.6	8,286,964	2.9	8,998,978	7.9
Operating Expenses	1,847,230	20.3	1,380,727	(25.3)	1,408,387	2.0	1,358,095	(3.6)	1,464,207	7.8	1,914,907	30.9	1,799,442	(6.0)
Capital Equipment	44,906	(43.6)	4,000	(91.1)	0	(100.0)	0	(0.0)	7,925	>100.0	9,982	26.0	176,357	>100.0
ACTUAL														
EXPENDITURES	\$8,528,354	7.1	\$8,339,804	(2.2)	\$8,472,775	1.6	\$8,850,106	4.5	\$9,656,305	9.1	\$10,051,990	4.1	\$10,532,845	4.5
Personal Services	6,830,368 ²	11.8	6,994,714	2.4	7,047,454	0.8	7,481,524	6.2	8,161,423	9.1	8,186,110	.3	8,655,811	5.4
Operating Expenses	1,525,756	1.3	1,338,686	(12.3)	1,415,873	5.8	1,356,743	(4.2)	1,473,967	8.6	1,710,085	16.0	1,719,756	0.5
Capital Equipment	172,230	(49.6)	6,404	(96.3)	9,448	47.5	11,839	25.3	20,915	76.7	155,795	645.0	157,278	.09
ACTUAL														
REVENUE/GRANTS	\$3,526,885	8.6	\$3,424,264	(2.9)	\$3,060,032	(10.6)	\$3,329,011	8.6	\$2,962,034	(11.0)	\$3,139,447	6.0	\$5,070,230	38.1
VA Dept. of														
Juvenile Justice	3,231,046	9.6	3,096,172	(4.2)	2,725,049	(12.0)	3,034,807	11.4	2,638,521	(13.1)	2,722,395	3.2	4,655,139	41.5
Family Services	168,720	(1.0)	134,768	(20.1)	125,324	(7.0)	107,015	(14.6)	122,707	14.7	137,476	12.0	150,735	8.8
Fines and Costs	91,833	6.4	88,807	(3.3)	98,484	10.9	98,586	0.1	82,973	(15.8)	111,989	35.0	124,567	10.1
User Fees	35,286	(22.1)	78,522	122.5	48,353	(38.4)	88,603	83.2	117,833	33.0	105,603	(10.4)	108,311	0.3
Federal-USDA	0	0.0	25,995	100.0	62,822	141.7	63,672	(6.9)	64,479	1.3	61,984	(3.9)	31,478	(49.2)
Grants														
STAFFING LEVELS¹	239.0	5.5	241.0	0.8	242.0	0.4	245.5	2.7	249.0	1.4	248	(.4)	277.5	10.6
Judges	5.0	0.0	5.0	0.0	5.0	0.0	6.0	20.0	7.0	40.0	7.0	0.0	7.0	0.0
Professional	164.0	7.2	164.0	2.0	165.0	0.6	170.0	3.7	169.5	(.3)	168.5	(.5)	198.0	14.9
Clerical and	70.0	2.2	72.0	0.0	72.0	0.0	71.5	(0.6)	72.5	1.3	72.5	0.0	72.5	0.0
Maintenance														

¹ All staffing level figures relate to Staff Year Equivalents (SYE).

² Increase in personal services due to the addition of 10.0 employees at the Juvenile Detention Center in mid-year 1991, and 25 additional employees in FY 1991.

FIGURE 2

STATISTICAL TRENDS FY 1976-FY 1997

FISCAL YEAR	TOTAL COUNTY POPULATION (a)	COUNTY JUVENILE POPULATION (b)	DELINQUENCY AND CHINS COMPLAINTS (c)	JUVENILE COMPLAINTS PER JUVENILE POPULATION	NON-SUPPORT ACCOUNTS (d)	DRIVERS LICENSES ISSUED	ADULT COMPLAINTS (e)	ADULT COMPLAINTS PER TOTAL POPULATION
1976	576,200	89,770	3,462	.038	2,112	9,245	1,915	.003
1977	583,800	87,950	5,307	.060	2,168	12,994*	2,617	.004
1978	591,800	86,280	6,326	.073	2,286	13,653	2,556	.004
1979	605,800	85,130	6,179	.073	2,513	11,984	2,724	.004
1980	614,800	83,620	5,839	.070	2,760	11,902	3,036	.005
1981	632,800	85,240	6,152	.072	3,014	13,665	3,215	.005
1982	641,300	83,300	5,589	.067	3,290	10,822	3,620	.006
1983	651,000	82,100	5,260	.064	3,633	11,387	3,731	.006
1984	660,500	81,100	5,227	.064	4,055	9,319	3,764	.006
1985	689,100	80,970	5,207	.064	4,429	9,401	4,675	.007
1986	699,900	81,830	5,800	.071	3,814	12,000	4,330	.006
1987	715,900	81,452	5,333	.066	523	13,691	4,260	.006
1988	739,200	78,882	5,805	.074	—	14,019	4,776	.006
1989	785,000	78,351	5,903	.075	—	10,668	4,573	.006
1991	832,346	77,580	6,010	.077	—	12,256	4,633	.006
1991	843,995	74,902	6,714	.090	—	10,825	5,262	.006
1992	862,700	78,754	7,569	.096	—	11,251	5,617	.007
1993	871,500	79,818	7,423	.093	—	10,040	6,490	.007
1994	885,900	81,298	8,209	.100	—	10,172	6,391	.007
1995	899,500	81,512	7,647	.094	—	11,069	6,643	.007
1996	911,700	82,764	8,254	.100	—	10,728	7,126	.007
1997	933,700	84,038	8,497	.101	—	N/A	5,425	.006

a. Includes Fairfax City. Source: Fairfax County Office of Research Statistics.

b. September public school memberships, grades 5-12, excluding grades 5-6 special education.

c. Juvenile complaints excluding traffic, custody, rules, capiases, reviews, attorney appointments, pre-trial motions, record inspection requests, seeing intake counselors for information, and leaving without seeing intake counselor.

d. As of June 30, 1986 responsibility for support enforcement was transferred to the Division of Child Support Enforcement, a state agency. Support collection figures for Fairfax County will no longer be reflected in this report.

e. Complaints excluding rules, capiases, reviews, attorney appointments, pre-trial motions, seeing intake counselors for information, and leaving without seeing intake counselor.

*Not the entire fiscal year-October 1975-June 1976 only.

Another major change in the Court's organization resulted from the Court Reorganization Act of 1973. As of July 1974, all judges and those clerical personnel who performed jobs directly related to judicial rather than probation functions became state employees and the responsibility of the Executive Secretary of the Supreme Court. A separate Clerk of the Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court was appointed in the fall of 1974, and all state clerks became responsible to her. In FY 1980, the Chief Judge decided that the court recorders

would also become state employees, effective July 1, 1980. That portion of the Court staff composed of county employees also underwent reorganization in FY 1980, with the establishment of three divisions: Counseling Services, Residential Services, and Administrative Services. The position of Deputy Director of Court Services was created to head the Counseling Services Division. Domestic Relations Services was formed, consolidating adult probation, custody investigations, and support enforcement. Figure 4 shows the FY 1997 organization of the Court.

FIGURE 3

DOCKETED COURT TRANSACTIONS FY 1976-FY 1997

Fiscal Year	Court Days	Non-Traffic Transactions	Daily Average	Traffic Transactions	Daily Average	Total Transactions	Daily Average
1976*	249					13,095	52.5
1977	249	13,767	55.3	9,501	38.2	23,268	93.4
1978	251	13,175	52.5	10,441	41.6	23,616	94.1
1979	245	16,159	66.0	9,976	40.7	26,135	106.7
1980	245	15,355	62.7	10,020	40.9	25,375	103.6
1981	238	17,105	71.9	10,210	42.9	27,315	114.8
1982	239	17,429	72.9	11,247	47.1	28,676	120.0
1983	243	22,377	92.1	9,591	39.5	31,968	131.6
1984	235	23,059	98.1	8,718	37.1	31,777	135.2
1985	235	24,609	104.7	9,460	40.3	34,069	145.0
1986	240	25,801	107.5	10,338	43.1	36,139	150.6
1987	239	24,172	101.1	13,205	55.3	37,377	156.4
1988	240	24,619	102.6	13,907	57.9	38,526	160.5
1989	239	25,205	105.5	13,705	57.3	38,910	162.8
1991	240	26,004	108.4	11,307	47.1	37,311	155.5
1991	248	28,539	115.1	11,151	45.0	39,690	160.0
1992	246	32,567	132.4	10,656	43.3	43,223	175.7
1993	229	35,953	145.0	8,852	35.7	44,805	180.7
1994	245	38,573	157.4	8,394	34.3	46,967	191.7
1995	247	43,251	175.1	8,888	36.0	52,139	211.1
1996	244	39,116	160.3	8,141	33.4	47,257	193.7
1997	245	41,813	170.7	8,663	35.4	50,476	206.0

* The State Supreme Court Uniform Docketing System was begun in 1976 and hearings began to be counted uniformly throughout Virginia. Each complaint heard is counted as one hearing. Therefore, if five complaints are heard at one time, the Uniform Docketing System counts them as five hearings.

An automated information system, JUVARE (Juvenile and Adult Recording Evaluation System), was implemented in June 1976. This system provides on-line computer capabilities both in the courthouse and in branch offices for all case processing. It also generates management reports. During 1987, a consultant working with court staff undertook the first steps toward redesigning JUVARE to make it a more effective system which takes into account technological changes now available and operational changes in the Court system.

On July 1, 1977, significant revisions to the Virginia Juvenile Code took effect. Among other things, these revisions provided distinct rules and procedures at all stages of the court process for dealing with CHINS (Children in Need of Services, previously called status offenders), delinquents, neglected and abused children, and children whose custody requires determination.

In 1975, the Court opened its first residential facility to implement a shift toward community corrections. The Girls Probation House, which offers a structured program

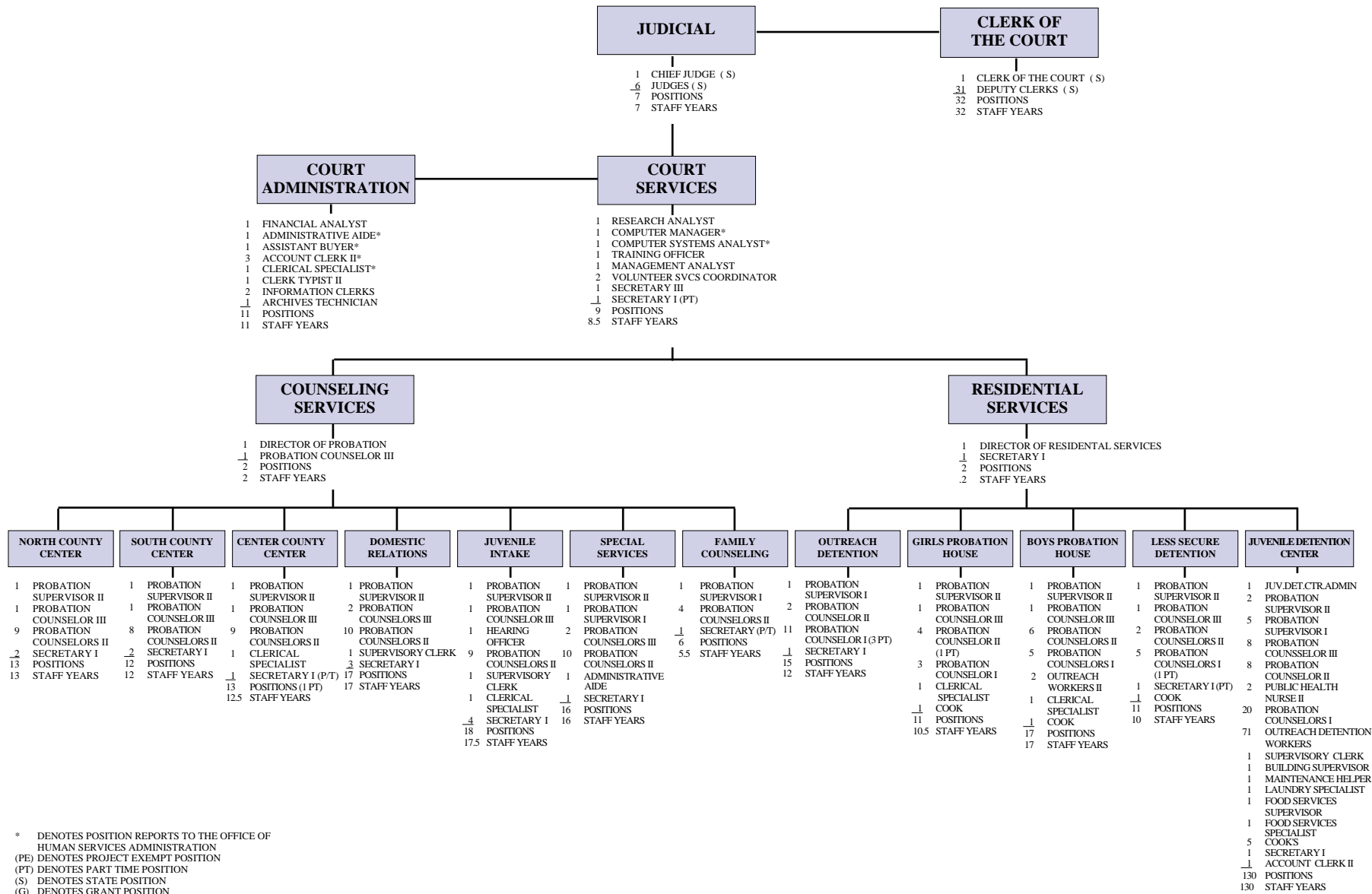
of school, rehabilitative treatment, and recreation as an alternative to state commitment began operating in October 1975. In FY 1980, the Virginia Department of Corrections and the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors approved funds for a corresponding facility for boys, the Boys Probation House. A structure was purchased in October 1980, and after redesign and renovation, the facility opened in April 1982.

The Court instituted an Outreach Detention program in 1978, providing intensive in-house supervision to children who might otherwise require pre-dispositional holding.

In January 1980, the Less Secure Shelter opened as a holding facility for CHINS offenders who, according to the revised Virginia Code, cannot be kept in a secure facility longer than one court day. When the grant funding for this facility terminated on October 31, 1980, with the county assuming its costs, it marked the first time in over a decade that the Court was not receiving grant funding for any of its programs or placements. In April 1982, the Less Secure Shelter moved into a separate wing

FIGURE 4

FY 1997 JUVENILE AND DOMESTIC RELATIONS DISTRICT COURT



of the new Juvenile Detention Center, where it could also house delinquent offenders not requiring secure detention.

The Juvenile Detention Center opened as a 33-bed facility in October 1982. The JDC space expanded to 44 beds in April 1991, and 55 beds in October 1992. Construction began in FY1996 to expand to 121 beds.

A major staff and county effort has been expanded toward renovating the county courthouse for Juvenile Court use. The entire interior of the courthouse has been renovated to accommodate Court and Court service staff who had been located in a number of rented buildings in Fairfax City. The building was renovated in two phases: the first phase was completed in the summer of 1989, and the second phase was completed in August 1991.

Due to the increasing number and complexity of domestic relations cases, a separate Domestic Relations Unit was established to provide all domestic relations services from intake to probation supervision. Staffing for this

became available when the state's Division of Child Support Enforcement assumed responsibility for support collections, formerly the responsibility of this unit.

On July 1, 1989 revisions in the Virginia Code made significant changes in the handling of CHINS complaints (truancy and runaway) by the Court. Adjudicated CHINS cases are reviewed by an Inter-disciplinary Team to evaluate the child's service needs before final disposition, and complainants bringing CHINS charges must now demonstrate to the intake officer that they have exhausted available community resources before the complaint will be forwarded to the Court.

The trend in Court and probation services clearly has been to provide specialized services directed at delivering a range of correctional programs to its offender population. It is anticipated that this trend will continue, with the Court significantly focusing in the coming years on research to help determine which services are most appropriate for specific offenders.



II. AGENCY MISSION

It is important for any organization to have in place a stated mission to serve as a guide for itself and to enable it to develop performance objectives. Figure 5 displays the mission statements adopted for the Court as a whole, its two major sub-missions, and functional responsibility of each division of the Court Services.

FIGURE 5

AGENCY, SUB-AGENCY, AND DIVISION MISSION STATEMENT

AGENCY MISSION:

The mission of the Fairfax County Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court is to provide efficient, effective and equitable judicial and court service programs which promote positive behavioral change for those children and adults who come within the Court's authority, to act in conformance with orders of the Court, the provisions of law as contained in the Code of Virginia of 1950 as amended, caselaw, and Department of Juvenile Justice's Minimum Standards, consistent with the well-being of the client, his/her family, and the protection of the community.

JUDICIAL ADMINISTRATION MISSION:

To provide efficient and effective judicial services for those children and adults who come within the Court's authority to act, in conformance with the provisions of law as contained in the Code of Virginia of 1950 as amended, caselaw, State Supreme Court policies, and the protection and well-being of the community.

COURT SERVICE MISSION:

To provide efficient and effective Court Service Programs for those children and adults who come to the attention of, or are referred to the unit, in conformance with orders of the Court, the provisions of law as contained in the Code of Virginia of 1950 as amended, caselaw and Department of Juvenile Justice's Minimum Standards, consistent with the well-being of clients, their families and the protection of the community.

- **ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DIVISION SUB-MISSION:**

To receive, process, complete and evaluate all fiscal, financial, budgetary, personnel and data management activity as required for the efficient operation of Court services.

- **PROBATION SERVICES DIVISION SUB-MISSION:**

To provide to children, adults and families in the Fairfax County community, social, rehabilitative and correctional programs and services that meet Department of Juvenile Justice's Standards and statutory and judicial requirements.

- **RESIDENTIAL SERVICES DIVISION SUB-MISSION:**

To provide efficient, effective, accredited residential care programs and services to those youths and their parents who come within the Court's authority to act and who require such services.



III. JUVENILE CASE PROCESSING

Juvenile cases that progress through the entire juvenile system undergo the following sequence of processing stages, as represented schematically in the simplified case flow given in Figure 6: intake, adjudication, social investigation, disposition, court supervision, commitment, and after-care supervision. Cases do not necessarily go through all stages.

FIGURE 6

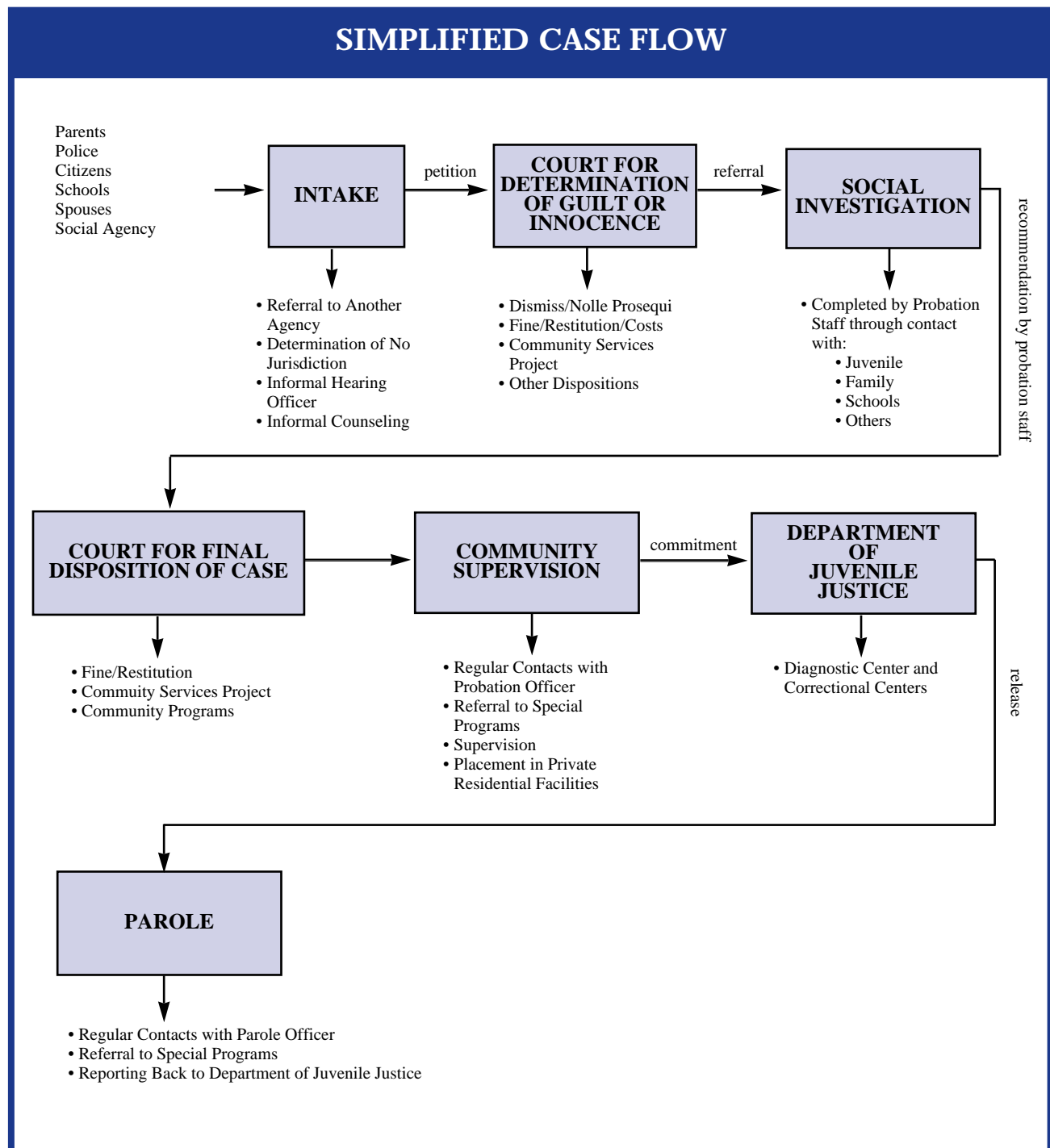
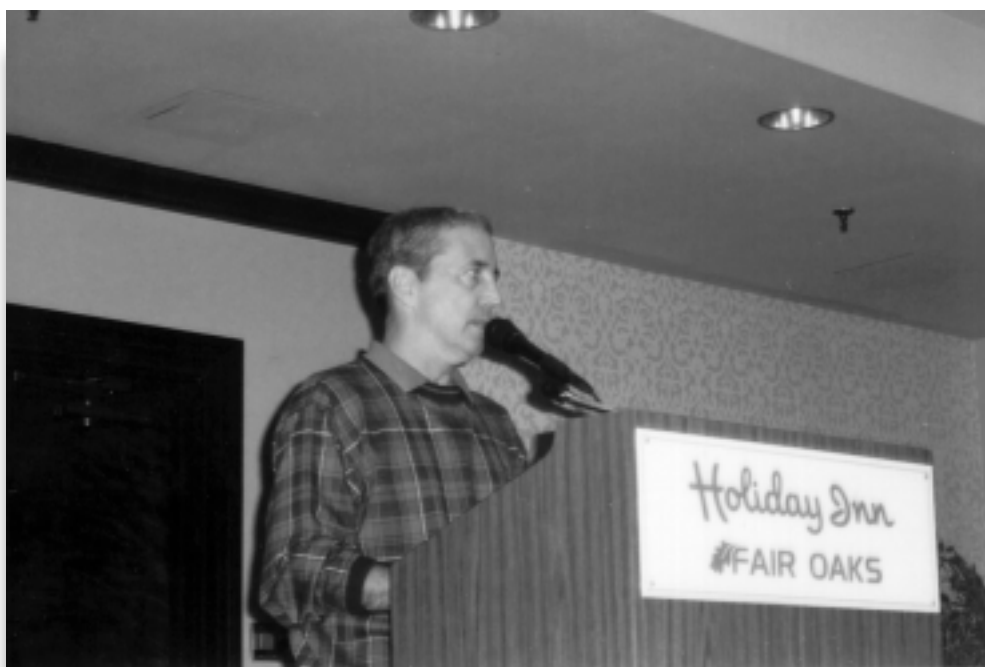


Figure 7 shows the average time required to process juvenile non-traffic complaints through these sequential stages.

FIGURE 7

**AVERAGE PROCESSING TIME (CALENDAR DAYS)
FOR JUVENILE NON-TRAFFIC COMPLAINTS
FY 1993-FY 1997**

PROCESSING STAGE	RELEVANT SUBGROUP OF CASES	FY 1993	FY 1994	FY 1995	FY 1996	FY 1997
Alleged offense to intake (delinquency complaints only)	Complaints that specify date of alleged offense	26.7	25.0	24.7	24.9	27.2
Intake to first hearing	Complaints set for Court more than 3 days after intake	46.6	55.2	59.3	*	*
Assignment of social investigation to hearing on report	Cases in which judge orders investigation	95.5	93.7	83.2	82.8	97.5
Start to end of supervision	Cases assigned for supervision	356	322	332	318	302
*Data unavailable						



The Honorable Gaylord L. Finch, Chief Judge, addresses the Court's Annual Day of Training, December 12, 1997.

INTAKE

Juveniles thought to have committed offenses which are under the purview of the Juvenile Court are brought into the judicial system either by a police officer witnessing or responding to an alleged criminal offense, or by citizens, families, or other agencies.

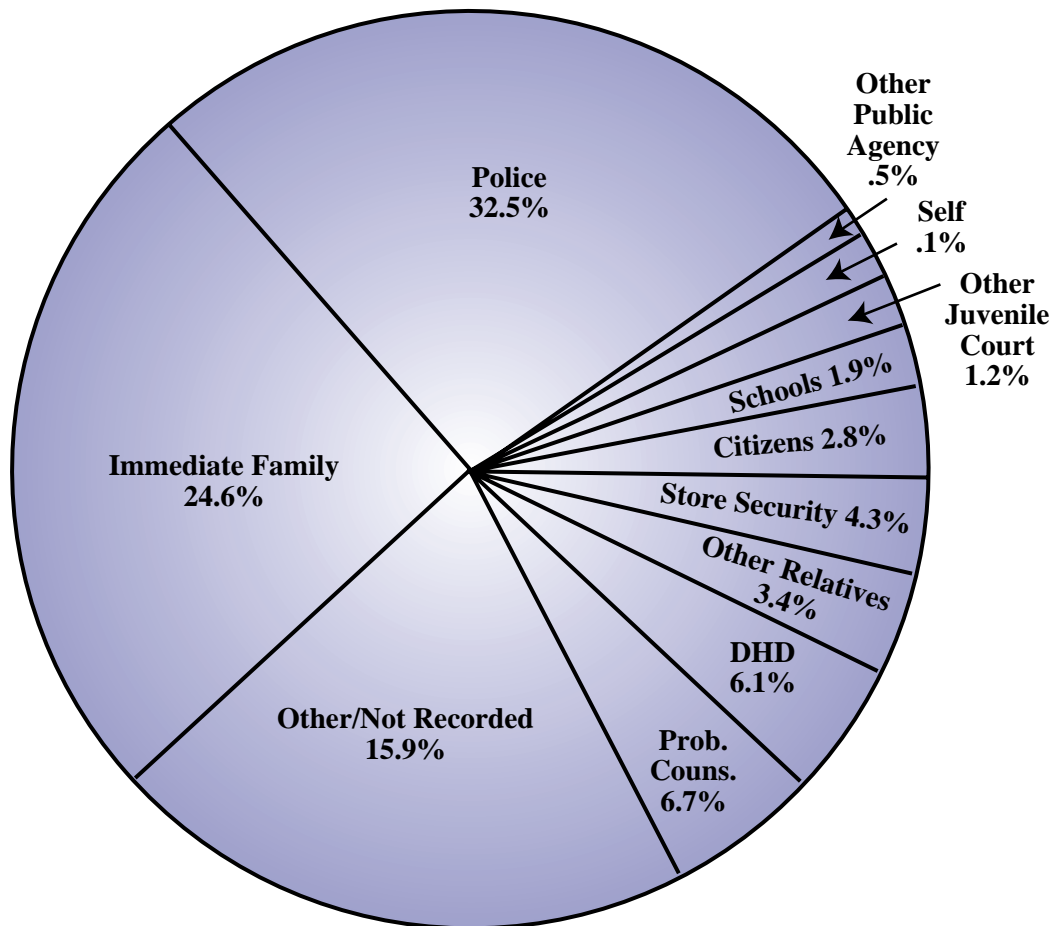
When the police are called to the scene of an offense alleged to have been committed by a juvenile, the police officer verifies that an offense has occurred and completes an investigative report. If the suspected violator has been apprehended during Court hours, the

police officer may bring the juvenile to the Intake section at either the courthouse, the North or South County Services offices, or the Falls Church office. If the police do not wish to detain the juvenile, they may send the child home and come to Intake to file a petition. A parent or other adult bringing a complaint against a juvenile also files the complaint at one of these offices.

Figure 8 shows the sources of juvenile non-traffic complaints in FY 1997. The trends in sources and complaints for the past five years are given in Figure 9.

FIGURE 8

SOURCES OF JUVENILE NON-TRAFFIC COMPLAINTS, FY 1997



Although they accounted for 32.5% of the juvenile non-traffic complaints during FY 1997, the police were responsible for 97% of all complaints alleging drug offenses, 62.0% of all complaints alleging crimes against persons, 68.5% of all complaints alleging property offenses, and 88.6% of all complaints alleging crimes against the public peace. Immediate family members brought 37.3% of all complaints that alleged status or

CHINS offenses (offenses involving behavior that would not be considered criminal if committed by adults), and 52% of all complaints involving custody issues. Ninety-five percent of all alcohol complaints were brought by the police. Of the complaints brought by private citizens, 39% alleged offenses against persons and 25% alleged offenses against property.

FIGURE 9

SOURCES OF JUVENILE NON-TRAFFIC COMPLAINTS, FISCAL YEARS 1992-1997

SOURCE	FY 1992 %	FY 1993 %	FY 1994 %	FY 1995 %	FY 1996 %	FY 1997 %
Police	21.1	21.7	24.8	26.0	27.7	32.5
Immediate Family	23.5	26.5	27.8	25.0	25.6	24.6
Citizens	2.8	2.8	2.3	2.8	2.6	2.8
Private Business/Store Security	4.3	4.1	4.6	4.1	3.5	4.3
Probation Counselors	5.2	5.9	6.7	7.1	7.0	6.7
DHD	5.5	4.8	4.4	5.6	5.8	6.1
School	2.6	3.0	2.5	2.2	1.5	1.9
Other Relative	5.5	5.0	4.0	4.1	3.8	3.4
Other Juvenile Court	1.6	1.2	1.5	1.4	1.2	1.2
Other Public Agency	0.7	1.1	1.0	.7	.3	.5
Self	1.9	2.3	2.0	1.6	1.3	.1
Other/Not Recorded	<u>25.3</u>	<u>21.6</u>	<u>18.4</u>	<u>19.3</u>	<u>19.7</u>	<u>15.9</u>
TOTAL	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

After a complaint has been filed with an intake clerk, each complainant is interviewed by an intake counselor. Intake counselors review cases to determine whether the Court has jurisdiction and the charge meets Virginia Code requirements for the offense. According to the revised Code, Intake may not refuse petitions that allege:

- (a) controversy over a child's custody, visitation or support;
- (b) a violation of the support laws;
- (c) the right of either a child or his parents to treatment or services required by law; or
- (d) the commission of an offense which, if committed by an adult, would be a felony or Class 1 misdemeanor.

According to the law, however, Intake does have the discretion to refuse other complaints. Complainants whose petitions have been refused may appeal to a magistrate who may issue a warrant for the child if probable cause is found in the commission of a felony or Class 1 misdemeanor.

The FY 1997 complaints received against juveniles by race and sex are given in Figure 10.

FIGURE 10

JUVENILE COMPLAINTS RECEIVED BY RACE AND SEX, FY 1997

	WM	WF	NWM	NWF	TOTAL
Property Offenses					
Petit Larceny	283	148	241	151	823
Grand Larceny	199	52	186	55	492
Breaking and Entering	218	44	198	16	476
Vandalism	248	42	122	23	435
Trespassing	118	53	137	22	330
Auto Larceny	150	33	130	16	329
Fraud	100	42	54	32	228
Concealment	65	31	67	57	220
Tampering	32	2	34	1	69
Receiving/Possessing Stolen Property	22	6	25	5	58
Throwing Missiles	33	0	15	1	49
Arson	40	0	7	0	47
Other	<u>15</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>34</u>
SUB TOTAL	1,523	458	1,226	383	3,590
% of Total Property Offenses	42.4%	12.8%	34.2%	10.6%	100%
Offenses Against Persons					
Assault	259	89	184	78	610
Robbery	21	0	63	1	85
Sex Offense	38	0	24	0	62
Brandishing Weapon	7	0	28	0	35
Murder	1	0	0	0	1
Other	<u>12</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>38</u>
SUB TOTAL	338	92	418	83	931
% of Total Persons Offenses	36.3%	9.9%	44.9%	8.9%	100%
Offenses Against the Public					
Weapons Offense	65	9	51	2	127
Disorderly Conduct	35	5	56	5	101
Other Offense Against Admin. of Justice	11	20	20	7	58
Telephone Abuse	12	6	3	1	22
Curse and Abuse	17	1	13	4	44
Escape Custody	9	0	6	2	17
Fireworks Violation	2	0	1	0	3
Other	<u>81</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>79</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>190</u>
SUB TOTAL	232	69	229	32	562
% of Total Public Offenses	41.3%	5.3%	40.7%	5.7%	100%

WM White Males
 WF White Females
 NWM Non-White Males
 NWF Non-White Females

	WM	WF	NWM	NWF	TOTAL
Drug and Alcohol Offenses					
Drunk in Public	247	48	89	8	392
Alcohol Offense	189	72	73	15	349
Drug Offense	80	23	47	0	150
Marijuana Possession	<u>83</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>30</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>130</u>
SUB TOTAL	599	154	239	29	1,021
% of Total Drug & Alcohol Offenses	58.7%	15.1%	23.4%	2.8%	100%
CHINS Offenses					
Runaway	94	120	77	140	431
Behavior, Conduct and Condition	52	51	16	32	151
Truancy	39	45	31	25	140
Other	<u>380</u>	<u>94</u>	<u>165</u>	<u>23</u>	<u>662</u>
SUB TOTAL	565	310	289	220	1,384
% of Total CHINS Complaints	40.8%	22.4%	20.9%	15.9%	100%
Custody	969	968	1,512	1,389	4,838
% of Total Custody Complaints	20.0%	20.0%	31.3%	28.7%	100%
Traffic	1,257	504	2,454	1,206	5,421
% of Total Traffic Complaints	23.2%	9.3%	45.3%	22.2%	100%
Other					
Violation of Probation or Parole	263	82	286	104	735
Rule, Capias	182	82	224	86	574
Intake Counselor Seen for Information	125	89	65	47	326
Attorney Appointment	31	17	68	31	147
Request for Courtesy Supervision	41	9	51	7	108
Request for Courtesy Investigation	6	0	12	9	27
Transfer from Other Va. Court	16	16	28	14	74
Mental Petition	20	21	14	10	65
Pre-trial Motion	0	1	1	0	2
Other	<u>628</u>	<u>304</u>	<u>530</u>	<u>268</u>	<u>1,730</u>
SUB TOTAL	1,312	621	1,279	576	3,788
% of Total Other Complaints	34.6%	16.4%	33.8%	15.2%	100%
TOTAL COMPLAINTS	6,795	3,176	7,646	3,918	21,535
% of Total Complaints	31.6%	14.7%	35.5%	18.2%	100%

Figure 11 gives the distribution of general complaint categories by age and sex for FY 1997. As it is possible for a single juvenile to be the subject of several different complaints, the number of complaints reported differs from the number of alleged offenders. In FY 1997, 16,114 different juveniles had at least one complaint, either traffic or non-traffic.

FIGURE 11

TYPE OF JUVENILE NON-TRAFFIC COMPLAINT BY SEX AND AGE, FY 1997																
Offense Type	MALE							FEMALE								
	Less Than		13	14	15	16	17	Over 17	Less Than		13	14	15	16	17	Over 17
	13	13							13	13						
Offense Against Property	187	220	351	610	695	662	7		45	71	139	136	214	217	0	
Offense Against Persons	65	73	107	135	131	147	3		13	21	12	23	15	26	0	
Offense Against the Public and Morality	11	23	49	97	111	112	1		9	6	10	18	22	31	0	
CHINS	23	31	144	228	213	202	2		21	53	80	153	147	73	0	
Drug and Liquor	7	22	53	132	253	356	2		2	2	18	38	49	82	0	
Custody	1,658	96	87	108	106	81	3		1,558	77	86	100	112	110	3	
Other	<u>443</u>	<u>111</u>	<u>246</u>	<u>412</u>	<u>560</u>	<u>584</u>	<u>248</u>		<u>328</u>	<u>80</u>	<u>120</u>	<u>185</u>	<u>239</u>	<u>205</u>	<u>38</u>	
Sub Total	2,394	582	1,037	1,722	2,069	2,144	266		1,976	310	465	645	798	744	41	
Sub Total by Sex	Males: 10,214 (67.2%)								Females: 4,979 (32.8%)							
GRAND TOTAL																15,193

Figure 12 presents trends in the number of non-traffic offenders from FY 1994-FY 1997 as well as the changing proportions of first offenders to repeat offenders, and of first offenders to Intake for new criminal charges within the fiscal year to first offenders who do not return.

FIGURE 12

JUVENILE NON-TRAFFIC OFFENDER COUNTS AND RECIDIVISM TRENDS, FY 1994-FY 1997				
	FY 1993	FY 1994	FY 1995	FY 1996
Alleged offenders in given year with complaints in previous year	3,195 (38.8%)	3,470 (37.9%)	3,678 (39.8%)	3,319 (34.5%)
Alleged offenders in given year without complaints in previous year				
• who do return to court that year	462 (5.6%)	551 (6.0%)	553 (5.9%)	765 (8.0%)
• who do not return to court that year	4,588 (55.6%)	5,148 (56.1%)	5,027 (54.3%)	5,536 (57.5%)
TOTAL	8,245 (100%)	9,169 (100%)	9,258 (100%)	9,620 (100%)
Average number of complaints per alleged offender in given year	1.76	1.80	1.90	1.7

Figure 13 shows the changing distribution of juvenile complaints by race and sex since FY 1992. Overall, during this period, the percentage of complaints brought against white males decreased while complaints against non-whites and females have increased slightly. Percentages of white females have remained relatively stable during the period.

FIGURE 13

JUVENILE COMPLAINT* RACE AND SEX DISTRIBUTION TRAFFIC AND NON-TRAFFIC FY 1992-FY 1997

	FY 1992	FY 1993	FY1994	FY 1995	FY 1996	FY 1997
White Male	46.6%	45.0%	44.2%	42.4%	41.5%	31.6%
White Female	24.0%	22.8%	22.2%	22.6%	21.0%	14.6%
Non-White Male	19.9%	21.1%	21.2%	22.7%	23.6%	35.6%
Non-White Female	<u>9.5%</u>	<u>11.1%</u>	<u>12.4%</u>	<u>12.3%</u>	<u>13.9%</u>	<u>18.2%</u>
TOTAL	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
n	20,613	18,987	20,253	22,143	22,905	20,486

* Excluding rules, capiases, reviews, attorney appointments, pre-trial motions, record inspection requests, seeing intake counselors for information, and leaving without seeing an intake counselor.

Figure 14 shows the changing distribution of juvenile complaints, excluding traffic complaints, by race and sex since FY 1992.

FIGURE 14

JUVENILE NON-TRAFFIC COMPLAINT* RACE AND SEX DISTRIBUTION TREND FY 1992-FY 1997

	FY1992	FY 1993	FY 1994	FY 1995	FY 1996	FY 1997
White Male	39.2%	37.9%	36.8%	35.7%	35.9%	34.5%
White Female	20.9%	19.9%	18.8%	20.1%	18.2%	16.5%
Non-White Male	26.0%	26.8%	27.4%	28.1%	28.2%	32.1%
Non-White Female	<u>13.9%</u>	<u>15.4%</u>	<u>17.0%</u>	<u>16.1%</u>	<u>17.7%</u>	<u>16.9%</u>
TOTAL	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
n	12,236	12,226	13,215	15,169	16,358	15,065

* Excluding rules, capiases, reviews, attorney appointments, pre-trial motions, record inspection requests, seeing intake counselors for information, and leaving without seeing an intake counselor.

Figure 15 graphs the changes in the categories of juvenile complaints since FY 1992. The changes in all categories of juvenile complaints combined are graphed in Figure 16.

FIGURE 15

TRENDS IN TYPES OF JUVENILE COMPLAINTS, FY 1991-FY 1997

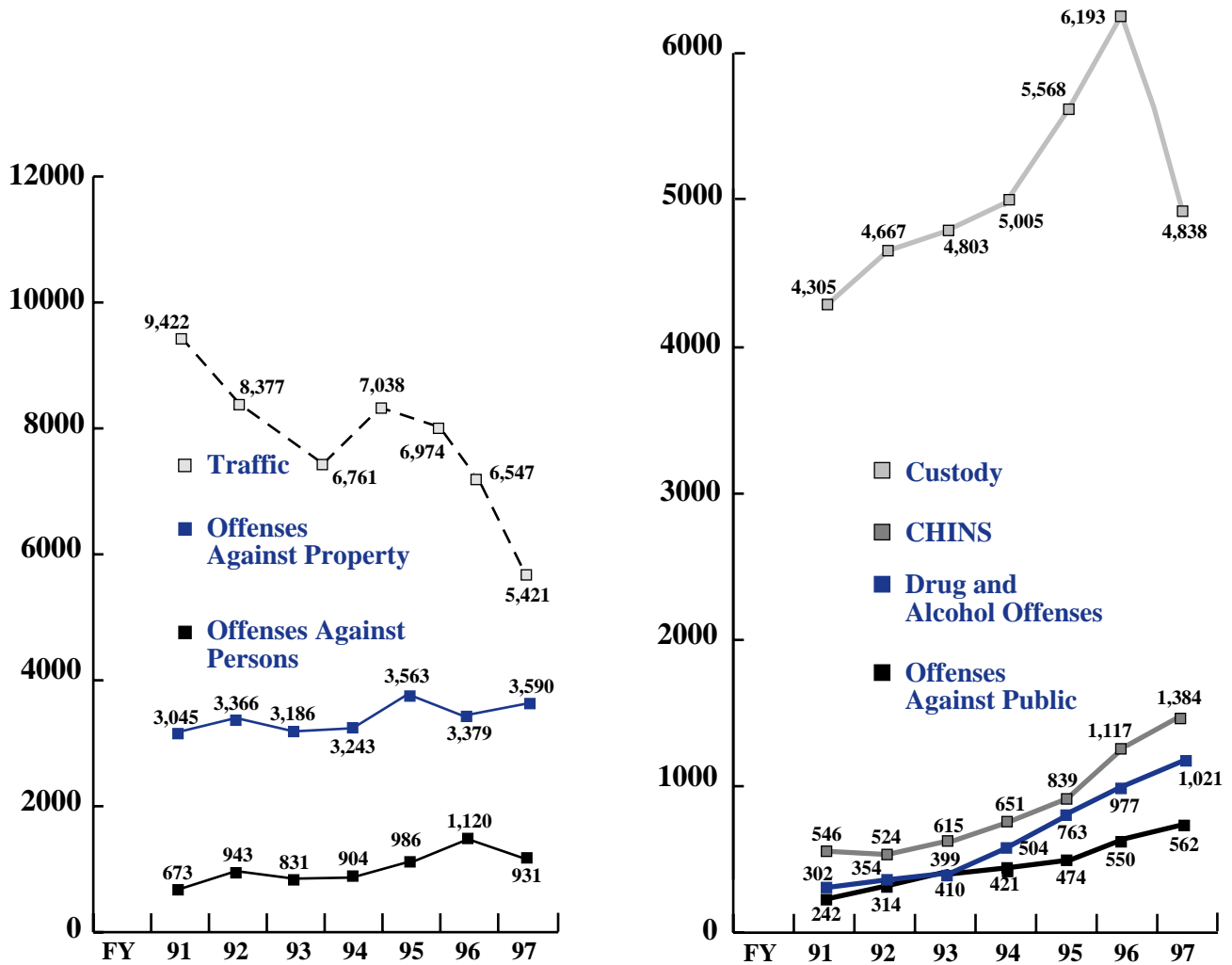
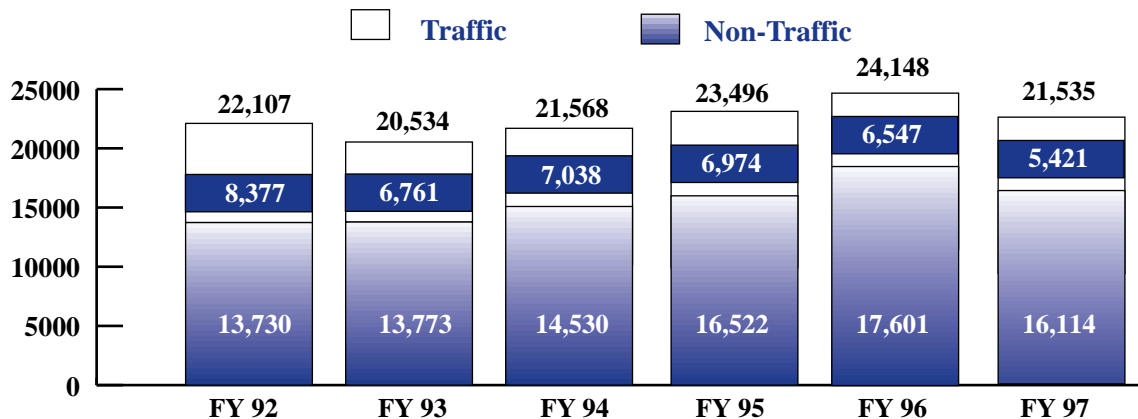


FIGURE 16

JUVENILE COMPLAINTS, TRAFFIC AND NON-TRAFFIC FY 1992-FY 1997



The tables in Figures 17 and 18 display the changing distribution of juvenile complaints by offense type since FY 1992. The first chart refers to all juvenile complaints, including traffic complaints; the next chart refers to juvenile complaints excluding traffic complaints.

In FY 1997 court staff received 15,517 intakes on juvenile non-traffic complaints. Some intakes involve more than one complaint; there was an average of 1.04 complaints per juvenile non-traffic intake in FY 1997, almost the same as last year. In FY 1997, Intake set for Court 82.1% of all juvenile non-traffic, non administrative complaints received.

FIGURE 17

PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF TYPES OF JUVENILE COMPLAINTS* RECEIVED 1992-1997, INCLUDING TRAFFIC CASES

	FY 1992 N=20,613	FY 1993 N=18,987	FY 1994 N=20,253	FY 1995 N=22,143	FY 1996 N=22,905	FY 1997 N=20,486
Offenses Against Property	16.3%	17.2%	16.1%	16.1%	14.7%	17.5%
Offenses Against Persons	4.6%	4.5%	3.8%	4.5%	4.2%	4.5%
Offenses Against Public	1.5%	2.2%	1.7%	2.1%	2.1%	2.7%
Drug and Alcohol Offenses	1.7%	2.2%	2.5%	3.4%	4.3%	5.0%
CHINS Offenses	2.5%	3.3%	3.2%	3.8%	4.9%	6.8%
Custody and Neglect	22.6%	25.9%	24.7%	25.2%	27.0%	23.6%
Traffic	40.7%	36.5%	34.8%	31.5%	28.6%	26.5%
Other	<u>10.0%</u>	<u>8.2%</u>	<u>13.2%</u>	<u>13.4%</u>	<u>14.2%</u>	<u>13.4%</u>
TOTAL	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

* Excluding rules, capiases, reviews, attorney appointments, pre-trial motions, record inspection requests, seeing intake counselors for information, and leaving without seeing an intake counselor.

FIGURE 18

PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF TYPES OF JUVENILE COMPLAINTS* RECEIVED 1992-1997, EXCLUDING TRAFFIC CASES

FY 1991	FY 1992 N=12,236	FY 1993 N=12,226	FY 1994 N=13,215	FY 1995 N=15,169	FY 1996 N=16,358	FY 1997 N=15,065
Offenses Against Property	27.5%	27.1%	24.7%	23.5%	20.6%	23.8%
Offenses Against Persons	7.7%	7.1%	5.9%	6.5%	5.9%	6.2%
Offenses Against Public	2.6%	3.5%	2.6%	3.1%	2.8%	3.7%
Drug and Alcohol Offenses	2.9%	3.4%	3.8%	5.0%	6.0%	6.8%
CHINS Offenses	4.3%	5.2%	4.9%	5.5%	6.8%	9.2%
Custody and Neglect	38.1%	40.8%	37.8%	36.7%	37.9%	32.1%
Other	<u>16.9%</u>	<u>12.9%</u>	<u>20.3%</u>	<u>19.6%</u>	<u>20.0%</u>	<u>18.2%</u>
TOTAL	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

* Excluding rules, capiases, reviews, attorney appointments, pre-trial motions, record inspection requests, seeing intake counselors for information, and leaving without seeing an intake counselor.

Figure 19 shows percentages of complaints set for court by Intake, by offense type, for FY 1994 through FY 1997.

FIGURE 19

INTAKE DISPOSITIONS BY TYPE OF JUVENILE NON-TRAFFIC OFFENSE, FY 1994-FY 1997

Offense Type	FY 1994		FY 1995		FY 1996		FY 1997	
	No. of Complaints ¹	Percent Set For Court	No. of Complaints ¹	Percent Set For Court	No. of Complaints ¹	Percent Set For Court	No. of Complaints ¹	Percent Set For Court
Offense Against Property	2,437	75.6	3,563	73.8	3,379	74.2	3,590	80.0
Offense Against Persons	576	76.7	986	71.0	1,120	67.2	931	71.0
Offenses Against the Public	282	83.6	474	63.7	550	72.5	562	75.4
Drug and Alcohol	166	80.2	763	85.8	977	92.3	1,021	92.3
CHINS	377	26.7	839	29.9	1,117	53.0	1,384	61.4
Custody	<u>4,055</u>	<u>26.0</u>	<u>5,568</u>	<u>82.3</u>	<u>6,193</u>	<u>82.4</u>	<u>4,838</u>	<u>90.4</u>
TOTAL	10,168	74.9	12,193	81.8	13,336	77.0 ²	12,326	82.1

¹Excluding rules, capiases, and others.

²A portion of the remaining 23% were handled by informal hearing officers.

INFORMAL HEARING OFFICER

Juvenile Intake Services includes the Hearing Officer program which was developed in 1970 to hear minor misdemeanor cases that may be resolved by informal arbitration and sanctions. The Hearing Officer is used most frequently in trespassing, minor property, and alcohol cases.

The Hearing Officer states the nature of the hearing to the juvenile, the parents and/or complainants, and

discusses the situation with all involved. Depending on the problem and the nature of the responses, the Hearing Officer decides on the course of action. Most often, community service or restitution is assigned, or the case is continued for a period of time and closed if the juvenile commits no further offenses. A petition may be filed for formal processing if new offenses are committed.

Figure 20 shows that 816 informal hearings were held in FY 1997.

FIGURE 20

HEARING OFFICER ACTIVITY, FY 1982-1997

Fiscal Year	Number of Hearings	Fiscal Year	Number of Hearings
1982	710	1990	506
1983	758	1991	684
1984	635	1992	777
1985	466	1993	771
1986	394	1994	714
1987	321	1995	812
1988	451	1996	693
1989	554	1997	816

INTAKE

SUMMARY OF HIGHLIGHTS

- The overall volume of complaints decreased by 10.8 percent during FY 1997. The Juvenile Court received 21,535 complaints in FY 1997, compared to 24,148 complaints received in FY 1996.
- About one-quarter (25.2 percent) of all complaints received were for traffic offenses. Traffic complaints continued to decrease — down 17.2% from last year, from 6,547 in FY 1996 to 5,421 in FY 1997.
- Custody and neglect complaints composed the largest category (32.1 percent) of non-traffic complaints. Property offenses continued to be the most common criminal offense among juveniles (23.8 percent of non-traffic complaints), followed by “other” complaints, i.e., probation violations, rules, capias, etc. (18.2 percent), offenses against persons (6.2 percent), CHINS complaints (9.2 percent), offenses against the public (3.7 percent), and drug and alcohol offenses (6.8 percent).
- The largest increase was in CHINS complaints, which increased 23.9 percent from FY 1996 to FY 1997, from 1,117 to 1,384.
- The second largest increase in complaint type was in property complaints, which increased 6.2 percent from FY 1996 to FY 1997, from 3,379 to 3,590 complaints. The third largest increase was in complaints for drug and alcohol offenses, up 4.5 percent, from 977 in FY 1996 to 1,021 in FY 1997.
- “Other” types of complaints, which includes violations of probation or parole, capiases, and information only complaints, decreased 11.2 percent, from 4,265 in FY 1996 to 3,788 in FY 1997.
- There was a 21.9 percent decrease in custody complaints, from 6,193 in FY 1996 to 4,838 in FY 1997.
- There was a 17.7 percent increase in the number of hearings held by the informal hearing officer, from 693 in FY 1996 to 816 in FY 1997.
- The total number of delinquency and CHINS complaints increased by 27.3 percent over the past five years, from 5,441 in FY 1993, 5,723 in FY 1994, 6,625 in FY 1995, 7,143 in FY 1996, to 7,488 in FY 1997.
- About 32.5 percent of all youths are brought to Court by the police and 24.6 percent by their immediate family.
- The average age of a youth brought to Court is 15.

RESIDENTIAL PRE-DISPOSITIONAL PLACEMENTS

In more serious cases that are not informally diverted, the intake counselor must decide whether youth should be detained or placed outside of their home prior to a court hearing or whether they can be released to parents or a guardian. If holding is necessary, the available options pending detention hearings are the Fairfax County Juvenile Detention Center and the Fairfax County Less Secure Shelter.

The decision by Intake to hold youth outside of their homes is made because the youth may present a danger to the community or to themselves, and the judge may decide to detain if it is determined that the youth is unlikely to appear for the court hearing. In all cases in which children are placed outside their homes pending a hearing, a judicial determination to continue detention must be made by a judge the next working day after a youth is first detained to ensure that continued detention is appropriate. As of FY 1985, the Code of Virginia prohibited the detention of CHINS offenders in secure facilities except out-of-state runaway youth. However, revisions to the Code on July 1, 1989 allow for the secure detention of CHINS offenders who are in violation of a court order.

The Fairfax County Juvenile Court operates two pre-dispositional placement facilities for juveniles — the Less Secure Shelter and the Juvenile Detention Center.

LESS SECURE SHELTER — The Less Secure Shelter is a nonsecure, predispositional holding facility for up to 12 boys and girls, placed by judicial order. Most of the youths held in this facility are delinquent offenders. However, some placements are for Children in Need of Services and Supervision who, under the Code of Virginia cannot be detained in the same secure facility as delinquent offenders. The Less Secure Shelter opened on January 28, 1980, funded by a Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (JJDP) federal grant. In December, 1991 it moved into a facility adjacent to the new Juvenile Detention Center. This program was revised in FY 1991 to provide an intermediate treatment

component for those youth who did not require a residential program for up to one year but who did require intensive, intermediate residential programming up to four months. Numerous long-term, costly residential placements have been averted by placing youths in the intermediate program. Teachers from Fairfax County Public Schools provide a year-round academic curriculum.

JUVENILE DETENTION CENTER —

The JDC is a secure predispositional holding facility originally opened in October 1982 with a capacity for 33 boys and girls. The facility expanded to a capacity of 44 beds in April 1991, and 55 beds in October 1992. It is designed both architecturally and programmatically to reduce stress for the residents while providing control and safety. Security is maintained through physical surveillance and personal contact between staff and detainees, rather than through electronic equipment; the extensive use of internal windows facilitates surveillance without being obtrusive. A glass-lined circulation corridor surrounds an open inner courtyard, and five small-group living areas — each organized as a set of 11 bedrooms opening onto a common dayroom — replace the traditional cellblock. The building provides specialized single-purpose space for schooling, arts and crafts, physical exercise, dining, intake, reception, and administration. Special attention is paid to screening medical needs, and to providing a balanced low-sugar diet. The program has received numerous facility and employee awards for outstanding performance.

Figures 21, 22 and 23 show numbers and lengths of juvenile confinements in these various placements in FY 1997, as well as secure confinement trends since 1992. Figures 21 through 25 are based on juveniles released from placement during FY 1997.

These figures report numbers of confinements, which exceed the number of juveniles confined since a single juvenile may be confined more than once in the same year. In FY 1997, 1,079 different juveniles were confined to a juvenile detention home (all at the Fairfax Juvenile Detention Center). During the previous fiscal year, a total of 1,067 different juveniles were held in either juvenile or adult detention.

FIGURE 21

JUVENILES CONFINED IN SECURE DETENTION AND DETENTION ALTERNATIVES BY PLACE, RACE, AND SEX, FY 1997**

Race and Sex	Fairfax County Juvenile Detention Center			Detention Release and Services		
	No. Youth	No. Days	ALS*	No. Youth	No. Days	ALS*
White Male	524	10,545	20.1	63	2,911	46.2
White Female	181	2,592	14.3	12	340	28.3
Non-White Male	663	15,431	23.3	67	2,010	30.0
Non-White Female	<u>141</u>	<u>2,598</u>	<u>18.4</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>311</u>	<u>23.9</u>
TOTAL	1,509	31,166	20.7	155	5,572	35.9

	Outreach Detention			Less Secure Shelter		
	No. Youth	No. Days	ALS*	No. Youth	No. Days	ALS*
White Male	157	6,698	42.7	47	1,293	27.5
White Female	76	3,715	48.9	61	1,334	28.0
Non-White Male	160	6,380	39.9	46	1,085	23.6
Non-White Female	<u>50</u>	<u>1,879</u>	<u>37.6</u>	<u>86</u>	<u>1,949</u>	<u>22.7</u>
TOTAL	443	18,672	42.2	240	5,661	24.0

*ALS = Average length of stay. **All figures are based on juveniles released during the fiscal year.

FIGURE 22

AVERAGE LENGTH OF STAY (DAYS) BY AGE AND PLACE, FY 1997

Age	Fairfax County Juvenile Detention Center	Detention Release and Services	Outreach Detention	Less Secure Shelter
10 or under	28.5	—	45.0	14.0
11	35.0	—	—	—
12	16.8	30.0	40.8	17.8
13	19.5	35.7	39.0	25.6
14	18.4	57.8	40.8	30.0
15	21.4	30.2	45.0	20.6
16	20.3	33.0	42.0	32.8
17+	21.4	31.0	40.3	14.9

FIGURE 25

SECURE CONFINEMENT TRENDS, FY 1992-FY 1997*

	FY 1992	FY 1993	FY 1994	FY 1995	FY 1996	FY 1997
Fairfax Juvenile Detention Center						
Number released	1,024	954	1,215	1,444	1,557	1,509
Child Care Days	23,051	24,747	27,475	30,352	33,253	31,166
Average Length of Stay	22.5	21.3	22.6	21.0	21.4	20.7
Northern Virginia Detention Center						
Number released	158	92	66	1	0	0
Child Care Days	3,829	2,340	1,934	58	0	0
Average Length of Stay	24.2	21.2	29.3	58.0	0	0
Adult Detention Center (ADC)						
Number Released	4	1	0	0	0	0
Child Care Days	442	20	0	0	0	0
Average Length of Stay	110.5	20.0	0	0	0	0
Total Stays in Secure Confinement	1,186	1,047	1,281	1,445	1,557	1,509
Percent of Total Stays in ADC	0.3	0.01	0	0	0	0

* Based on juveniles released during the fiscal year.

Figure 24 shows the changes in the number of days spent in detention between FY 1992 and FY 1997. Figure 25 plots changes over the past five years in the average length of confinement in various facilities.

FIGURE 24

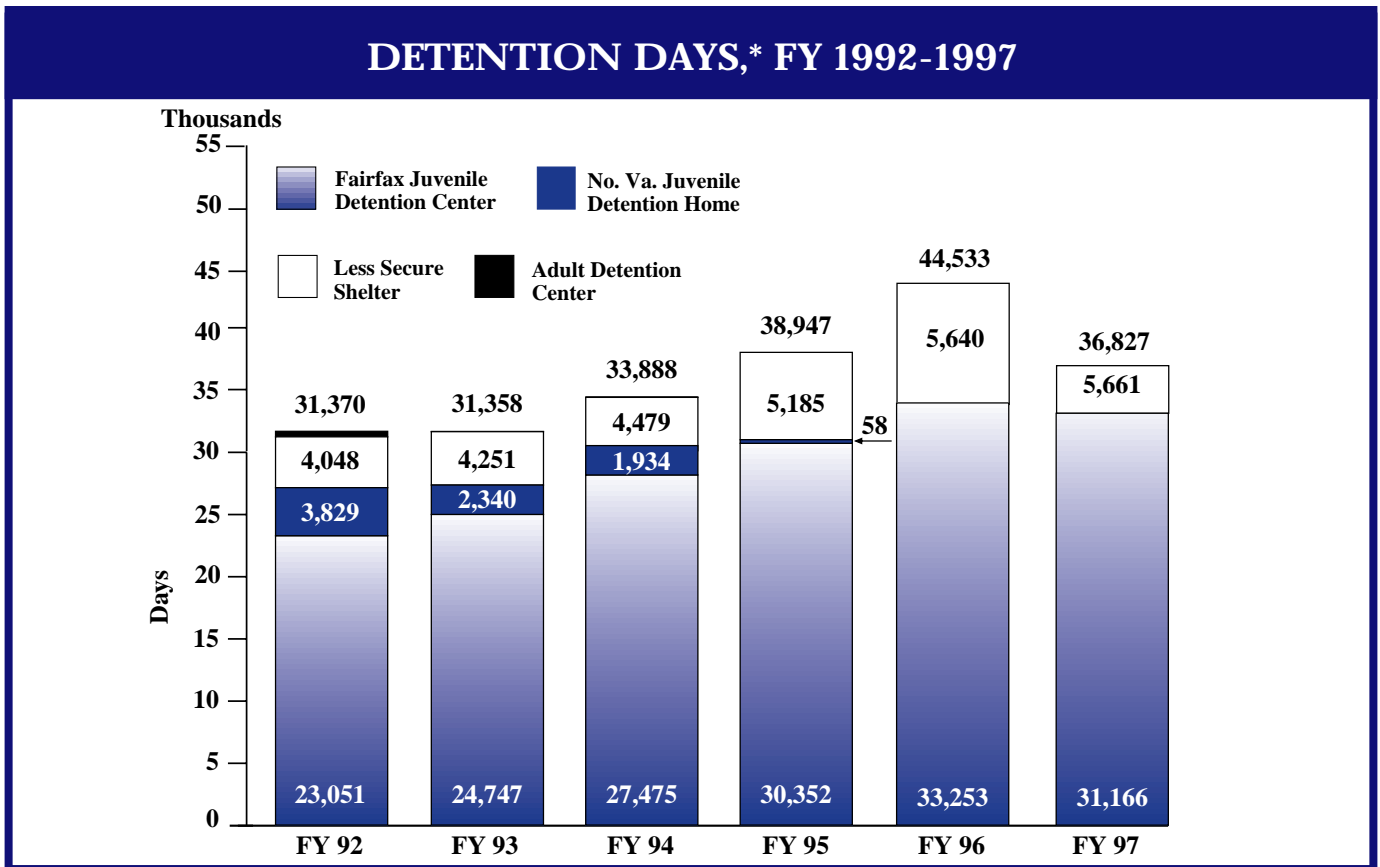
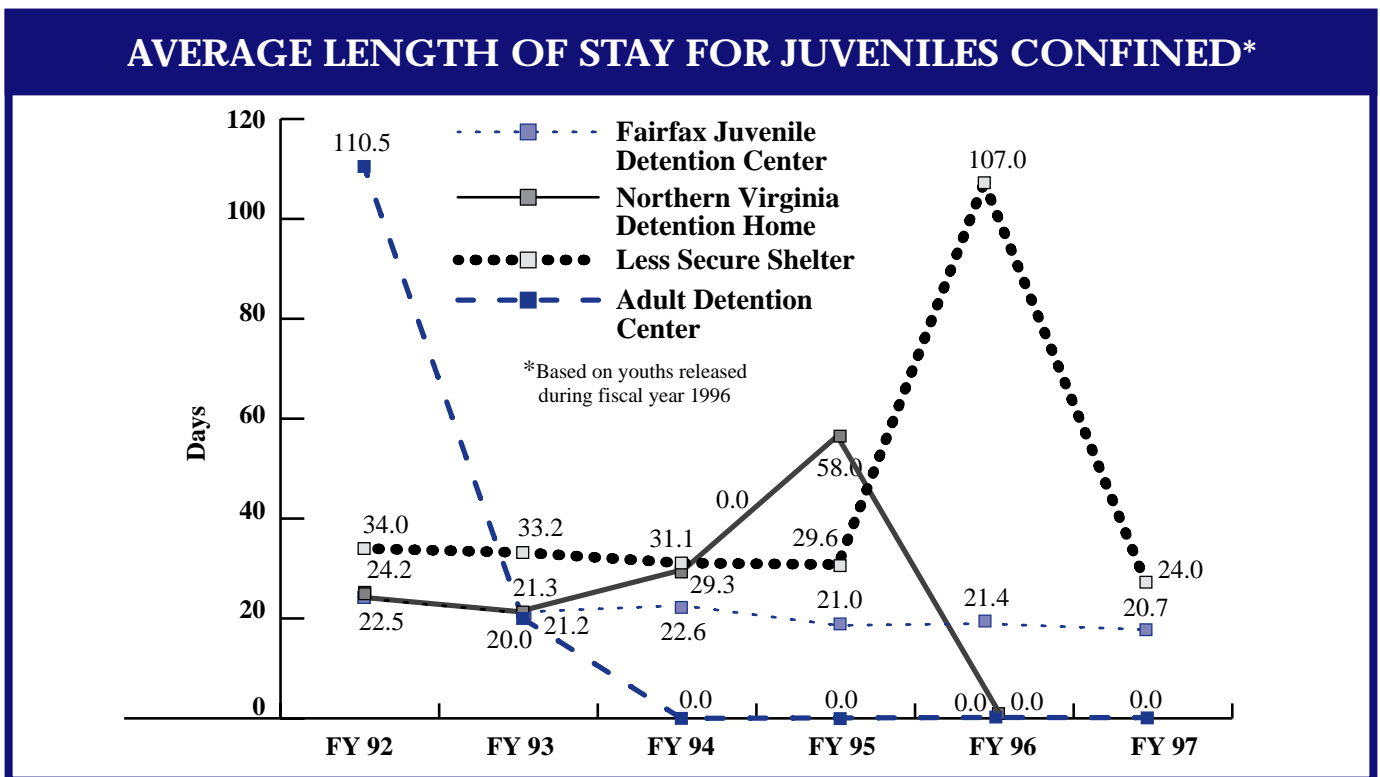


FIGURE 25



DETENTION

SUMMARY OF HIGHLIGHTS

- Total stays in secure confinement decreased 3.1 percent over last year — from 1,557 in FY 1996 to 1,509 in FY 1997.
- All securely confined youth were placed at the Fairfax County Juvenile Detention Center. Currently, the Court is handling all of its overcrowding needs in its own detention facility (see Figure 24).
- There was an 14.3 percent decrease in the utilization rate at the Fairfax County Juvenile Detention Center, from 161.2 percent of capacity in FY 1996 to 146.9 percent of capacity in FY 1997 (see Figure 31).
- The average length of stay at the JDC remained substantially unchanged, at 20 days.
- The utilization rate of the Less Secure Shelter continued to increase, from 128.4 percent in FY 1996 to 129.2 percent in FY 1997 (see Figure 31).
- The new Supervised Release Services Program is composed of the Detention Release Program and the Outreach Program. In FY 1996, these two programs combined provided 19,783 utilization days. In FY 1997, the new program provided 24,244 utilization days.



ADJUDICATION

If children are confined in a juvenile detention home, Less Secure or Adult Detention Center, their hearings are scheduled within 10 days of the detention hearing. Otherwise, the adjudicatory hearing is generally set by Intake three to four weeks after the filing of the complaint.

If the offense is one for which a child may lose his or her freedom, an attorney is provided by the Court or the juvenile is required to retain one, depending on the family's financial situation. At the hearing, the juvenile is informed by the judge of the alleged offense and is asked for a plea of innocent or guilty. The complainant explains the circumstance which led to the filing of the petition, the accused juvenile may respond to the charges, and any other witnesses are called. The judge then decides the disposition of the case. Options available to the judge at this point include, but are not limited to:

- commitment to the State Department of Youth and Family Services,
- placement in a Court Probation House,
- award custody of the child to the Court for special placement in a certified residential institution,
- placement of the child under Court supervision,
- continuance for a social investigation to be conducted by a probation counselor to bring recommendations on appropriate dispositions to the judge at a later date,
- fine and costs or restitution,
- continuation of the case to be dismissed at a future date if there are no further offenses, or
- dismissal of the charge.

Figure 26 reports the number of commitments to the State Department of Youth and Family Services since FY 1986.

FIGURE 26

COMMITMENTS TO STATE DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH & FAMILY SERVICES FROM FAIRFAX COUNTY, FY 1986-1997	
Fiscal Year	Number of Commitments
1986	64
1987	79
1988	72
1989	92
1990	92
1991	74
1992	97
1993	92
1994	86
1995	107
1996	125
1997	103

SUPERVISION

If juveniles are placed under Court supervision, they are assigned a probation counselor in their area of the county. Rules for probation are prepared, signed by the judge, the juvenile, the juvenile's parents and the probation counselor and are given to the youth. Figures 27, 28, and 29 show the race, sex, and ages by court center of juveniles under different types of supervision during FY 1997.

Some juveniles come under several different types of supervision during the same year. For example, first they have a social investigation, then are put on probation, and then may be on parole. The number of supervisions reported above, therefore, exceeds the number of different juveniles under some form of supervision. The total number of juveniles under supervision was 2,283 in FY 1997, compared with 2,310 in FY 1996, 2,424 in FY 1995, 2,152 in FY 1994, and 2,109 in FY 1993.

FIGURE 27

AGE AND SEX OF JUVENILES RECEIVING SERVICES DURING FY 1997 (By Court Units)

MALE							
Age	Center	North	South	Special Services	Dom. Rel.	Total No.	Percent
Under 13	18	13	8	6	87	132	4.7
13	35	28	28	7	6	104	3.7
14	94	90	66	22	3	275	9.7
15	135	158	144	45	5	487	17.2
16	231	209	155	86	9	690	24.4
17	195	203	149	111	1	659	23.13
Over 17	<u>102</u>	<u>118</u>	<u>91</u>	<u>120</u>	<u>49</u>	<u>480</u>	<u>17.0</u>
Sub Total	810	819	641	397	160	2,827	100.0
FEMALE							
Age	Center	North	South	Special Services	Dom. Rel.	Total No.	Percent
Under 13	2	0	0	0	63	65	8.3
13	13	12	9	1	4	39	5.0
14	34	27	13	4	3	81	10.3
15	64	49	46	12	1	172	22.1
16	65	48	57	16	4	190	24.4
17	39	53	47	13	3	155	19.9
Over 17	<u>13</u>	<u>34</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>78</u>	<u>10.0</u>
Sub Total	230	223	186	56	85	780	100.0
Grand Total	1,040	1,042	827	453	245	3,607	

FIGURE 28

RACE AND SEX OF JUVENILES RECEIVING SERVICES DURING FY 1997

	Center		North		South		Special Services		Domestic Relations		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
White Male	460	44.2	492	47.2	325	39.3	119	26.3	87	35.5	1,483	41.1
White Female	132	12.7	153	14.7	88	10.6	33	7.3	36	14.7	442	12.3
Non-White Male	268	25.8	253	24.3	277	33.4	232	51.3	42	17.1	1,072	29.7
Non-White Female	77	7.4	45	4.3	81	9.8	20	4.4	30	12.2	253	7.0
Sex or Race Unknown	<u>103</u>	<u>9.9</u>	<u>99</u>	<u>9.5</u>	<u>56</u>	<u>6.9</u>	<u>49</u>	<u>11.3</u>	<u>50</u>	<u>20.4</u>	<u>357</u>	<u>9.9</u>
TOTAL	1,040	100.0	1,042	100.0	827	100.0	453	100.0	245	100.0	3,607	100.0
% of Total	28.8%		28.9%		22.9%		12.6%		6.8%		100%	

FIGURE 29

TYPE OF SERVICES FOR JUVENILE CASES DURING FY 1997 (BY COURT UNITS)

	Center	North	South	Special Services	Domestic Relations	Total	& of Total
Probation	628	713	579	—	361	2,281	44.6
I & R	374	415	276	—	27	1,092	21.4
Pre-dispo. Supervision	632	96	127	—	—	855	16.7
Custody I & R	—	—	—	—	182	182	3.6
Committed Offender	—	—	—	232	—	232	4.5
Courtesy Supervision	39	32	41	—	—	112	2.2
Parole	—	—	—	284	—	284	5.6
Unofficial Probation	14	0	16	—	—	30	0.6
Courtesy I & R	—	4	22	—	—	26	0.5
Visitation I & R	—	—	—	—	17	17	0.3
TOTAL	1,687	1,260	1,081	516	587	5,111	100.0%
% of Total	33.0%	24.7%	20.8%	10.1%	11.5%	100.0%	

SUPERVISION

SUMMARY OF HIGHLIGHTS

- The total number of supervisions decreased 0.1 percent, from 3,565 in FY 1996 to 3,607 in FY 1997.
- The proportion of supervisions by unit was distributed as follows:

Center County:	29.2 percent
South County:	23.1 percent
North County:	29.2 percent
Special Services:	12.7 percent
Domestic Relations:	5.8 percent
- The total number of youths under supervision in FY 1997 was 2,283, down 0.1 percent from FY 1996 when 2,310 youths were under supervision.
- Over three-quarters (79.1 percent) of the youths supervised were male, 20.9 percent were female (see Figures 27 and 28).
- Nearly half (47.9 percent) of all youths under supervision were between 16 and 17 years old; 15.8 percent were over 17 years old.
- Girls who received court services were younger than boys — 20.5 percent of the girls were 14 years old or younger compared to 17.0 percent of the boys. Forty one percent of the boys were 17 or older at the time of service compared to 31.4 percent of the girls.

COURT PROGRAMS

SPECIALIZED PROGRAMS

The effective reduction of future offenses by juveniles brought to its attention is of critical importance to the Court. Consequently, many specialized services have been developed to enhance court intervention. In FY 1997 these included diagnostic services; work, education, and family counseling programs; coordination of volunteer activity; and direct court placement.

PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES — Judges may order psychological evaluations, usually as part of social investigations, for juveniles within the purview of the Court. Probation counselors also may request such evaluations during the course of social investigations to aid in the formulation of treatment plans. Although private doctors and psychologists perform some of these evaluations, emergency cases are performed by staff psychologists from the Community Services Board assigned to the Court. The Court has used psychological support services since the fall of 1970; it contracts with a private service provider for all other needed evaluations.

DIAGNOSTIC TEAM — Coordinated by a probation counselor assigned to the Special Services Unit, the Diagnostic Team is an interagency group whose membership includes a psychologist assigned to the Court, a family counselor from the Court staff, and, according to the particular case under consideration, representatives from the Health Department, the Department of Human Development (DHD), the School Board, and other agencies. The group reviews especially difficult cases referred by judges or probation counselors, and reports its recommendations to the judges. DHD counselors occasionally refer cases of Court-involved juveniles. Most juveniles whose cases come before the team have failed to respond to prior treatment efforts. The team considers a range of specialized diagnostic evaluations about each juvenile it sees, and facilitates collaboration among the different agencies whose cooperation is required to implement recommended treatment plans. Special emphasis is placed on checking whether community resources have been exhausted before recommending the removal of any juvenile from the community. The team has operated since the spring of 1974.

FAMILY COUNSELING PROGRAM — The Family Counseling Program, developed in 1970, provides ongoing family counseling services to families

involved with the Court. The counseling is designed to assist families who are experiencing problems with a child's behavior, custody visitation, or support matters, or marital difficulties. The goal of the program is to aid family members in understanding the development and maintenance of the problems in order to develop more thoughtful and effective problem-solving methods. Referrals to the program are made by Court service staff and judges. The program also prepares evaluations for the Court's Diagnostic Team and offers training and consultation to other Court staff.

JUVENILE TRAFFIC SCHOOL — Traffic Safety Seminars approved by the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles are offered to youthful traffic law violators to teach and encourage safe driving behavior. The course consists of nine hours of classroom time and five hours of driving time, and requires the attendance of at least one parent. Perceptive driving skills are emphasized. Youths who successfully complete the course are awarded five safe driving points and may also have their citations dropped or the charges reduced. Youthful traffic law violators, whose offenses such as reckless driving, speeding, or serious accidents require a court appearance, are eligible for traffic school.

VOLUNTEER PROGRAM — Volunteers from Fairfax County participate in the delivery of Court services in numerous ways. They assist as probation and parole aides, court aides, restitution aides, program aides, administrative aides, aides at residential facilities, as support persons for youngsters under Court supervision who are in need of a positive adult model, as Court companions for victims of domestic violence, as interpreters to the Court, family counseling interns, domestic relations interns, curfew checkers, community service supervisors and special activities leaders. The Program Coordinator recruits and screens volunteers, orients them to the Court system, and places them with the staff members they assist. The Coordinator acts as a liaison between the Court and local colleges, community organizations, the Voluntary Action Center, and concerned citizens.

VOLUNTEER INTERPRETER PROGRAM (VIP) — Created through the efforts of the Fairfax Bar Association and the Juvenile Court, the VIP assists individuals for whom English is a barrier to accessing appropriate Court Services as well as court staff in more effectively processing these clients. The program currently

provides only Spanish language interpretation and is available only in civil cases. Interpretation services consist of face-to-face interpretations between staff and clients as well as telephone interpretations. The program is coordinated by the Volunteer Sponsor Program and interpreters are trained in domestic relations issues and procedures, confidentiality, demeanor, ethics and court systems.

VOLUNTEER SPONSOR PROGRAM —

Established in 1992 with the assistance of a Federal grant from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, the Volunteer Sponsor Program (VSP) matches minority court-involved youths with responsible adults. The program, staffed by one coordinator, provides mentors to about 30 African-American, Hispanic, and other youths each year. Volunteer Sponsors are carefully screened and must complete 12 hours of training in court services, child development, and confidentiality issues. They work with participants for approximately six months. Participants are evaluated by the Court research analysts for pre-post behavioral changes.

SPECIAL PLACEMENTS/SERVICES — In July 1993, in accordance with the implementation of the Comprehensive Services Act (CSA), funds for the purchase of residential placements and for non-residential services for Court youths were transferred from the State level to the local government level. Five Family Assessment and Planning Teams review the need for services and are responsible for ensuring that existing local resources have been utilized prior to approval of out-of-home placements. When a placement is approved, the team emphasis is on selecting the least restrictive placement while still meeting the needs of the youth. The Court's two placement coordinators assume casework responsibilities for placements and provide probation/parole supervision to those youths. They visit youths in placement, work with the placement in achieving treatment goals, and work with parents toward changes that will ensure the youth's successful return to the community. Supervision continues for a minimum of six months once a youth returns home. Placement coordinators are also responsible for administrative functions (e.g., billing and encumbrances) for non-residential services approved under the CSA.

INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAM — Section 16.1-278.5 of the Code of Virginia necessitated the establishment of an interagency team to review and make recommendations on youth adjudicated to be Children In Need of Supervision (truants and runaways), prior to the Court making a final disposition. Members of the

Interdisciplinary Team include: mental health, public schools, alcohol and drug services, Court Services staff and the Department of Human Development. The team is coordinated by the deputy director for probation services. The purpose of the team is to evaluate a youth's individualized service needs for the Court's consideration in its dispositional findings. Due to the interagency approach and early intervention strategies, the team is able to address a multitude of problems faced by the youth and families.

WORK PROGRAMS

WORK TRAINING PROGRAM — Work training began in November 1973 and is targeted specifically at juveniles on probation, 14 to 18 years of age. The work training counselor places trainees in agencies of the county government and non-profit agencies, maintaining periodic contact with the on-site work supervisors and counseling trainees about job-related problems. Trainees usually work from 10 to 20 hours a week, depending upon their school schedules and the needs of the employing agencies, for periods of up to six months. They are paid strictly for hours worked; the Court handles all payroll administration. Although a judge can order a juvenile to get a job, no one can be ordered to participate in this program and no punitive Court action occurs solely as a result of a youngster's failure in the program. Trainees are treated on the job as regular employees; employers are free to fire them without advance approval from the Court.

COMMUNITY SERVICES PROJECT — Community service serves as a resource for the informal hearing officer program and for judges in sentencing first and second time misdemeanants. The program assigns youngsters to work without pay in a governmental or non-profit agency. Those who fail to complete their hours are subject to a show cause order for contempt of court. The program, which began in the spring of 1972, has experienced especially dramatic growth in the past several years due to a pair of changes in the Virginia Code. Since 1980, Juvenile Court judges have been able to order delinquents to participate in public service projects; since 1982, they have been able to order the participation of CHINS as well.

EDUCATION PROGRAMS

The Court and the Fairfax County Public Schools' School Board collaborate in operating or supporting a variety of alternative schools for youngsters who are

unable to benefit from the ordinary public school experience. Four of these schools were created by joint action of the Court and the School Division. These are: Falls Bridge School in Reston, Hillwood School in Falls Church, Sager School in Fairfax City, and Gunston School in Mount Vernon.

The Court provides facilities and administrative support, and the Fairfax County Public Schools' School Division provides full-time teachers, books and supplies for each school. Each school has the capacity to handle from eight to ten students under probation supervision by the Court who have experienced behavior and/or attendance problems in school. Students are referred by their probation counselors who closely monitor their attendance in the alternative schools. Students receive individualized remedial instruction, designed to enable them within a year to either return to a regular school, obtain a high school equivalency diploma, or enroll in a vocational or work-study program. Sager School opened in the fall of 1974, Falls Bridge School in September of 1977, Gunston School (formerly South County School) in November of 1977, and Hillwood School in September of 1985.

ENTERPRISE SCHOOL — The Enterprise School is a private, nonprofit school that provides a therapeutic learning environment for up to 25 juveniles of average and above-average intelligence whose emotional and behavioral problems have prevented them from coping effectively in regular public schools. Students are enrolled in a six-credit academic program that stresses addressing individual needs within a small group instructional setting. In addition, students participate in weekly group counseling and are required to participate in biweekly multiple-family group counseling sessions with their parents. Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) Department of Special Education provides one full-time and one half-time teacher while the Court provides the remaining financial support to the program. The Enterprise School moved to its present four-acre site in Vienna on June 15, 1986.

VOLUNTEER LEARNING PROGRAM — Volunteer Learning is an individualized tutoring program available to all residents of the county. In addition to the School Division, which provides one full-time coordinator and three part-time assistants, and the Court, which provides office space, the program is also sponsored by the Public Libraries, which provide space for the tutoring and training activity. The program coordinators recruit, train, and supervise volunteers who serve as tutors for persons needing remedial assistance

to pass the High School Equivalency Test. The coordinator and her assistants also diagnose individual educational needs and match appropriate tutors to learners or make referrals to Adult Learning Centers. Tutors and learners meet one-on-one twice weekly, usually in a library, to work towards a selected academic goal. Tutors are also assigned to the learning centers. Nearly one-eighth of the learners are Court-referred. Other referrals come from the public schools, other agencies, and other program participants. The program started in the fall of 1975.

INDEPENDENT STUDY — In 1992, the Court and Fairfax County Public Schools' School Board developed the Independent Study Program to work with up to eight youths on probation or parole. The program is designed to address the educational needs of youths who have been unable to benefit from traditional classroom instruction or alternative school programs. The program's two teachers serve youths who are pending expulsion, or who have been expelled but permitted to attend the specialized program by the School Board. The Independent Study Program has educational and work components. Youths meet with teachers twice each week for school assignments and individual instruction. They are encouraged to find employment to supplement their education. Job placements are coordinated by each youths' probation counselor and teacher. Program participants can earn GEDs, or if possible, be mainstreamed back into their base school.

SCHOOL PROBATION OFFICER PROGRAM Jointly sponsored by the Court and the School Division, teachers in selected intermediate and high schools are designated as part-time probation counselors. They attempt to handle student problems through counseling and referral either before or after the students become involved with the Court. The program started in the fall of 1973.

RESIDENTIAL SERVICES

GIRLS PROBATION HOUSE — The Girls Probation House program began operations in October, 1975. It has a capacity for 12 residents ranging in age from 14 to 17 years. It is a family oriented, long-term treatment facility that serves girls placed there by judicial disposition to reduce chronic acting-out delinquent behavior. The program does not treat those youth with severe emotional problems nor those with heavy involvement with drugs. Rather the program offers services for those youth who have failed to respond to

previous treatment efforts and those youth who have a suspended commitment to the State Department of Juvenile Justice. The program provides a structured environment that emphasizes the acceptance of personal responsibility by residents through means of a five-level program of behavior modification, positive peer culture and individual, group, and intensive family counseling sessions and bi-weekly parent group. All treatment is designed to facilitate the resident's return to her home and community. An educational and counseling day program has been added for graduating residents who can complete a semester at GPH. The Fairfax County Public Schools provide a teacher and a teacher's aide who address the educational needs for all residents in a daily program.

BOYS PROBATION HOUSE — The Boys Probation House is a community based residential treatment program designed to reduce chronic acting-out delinquent behavior. The program has a capacity for 12 residents and was developed to respond to the particular individual needs of adolescent boys between 14 and 17 years of age. An underlying premise for the establishment of the Boys Probation House was that traditional methods of correction have proven inadequate in dealing with the problems of some male juvenile offenders. The program provides a highly structured environment which emphasizes the acceptance of personal responsibility by residents through means of intensive staff supervision, a level program of behavior modification, role modeling, individual, family and group counseling, in-house AIDS and public health education, the use of community mental health centers and local Alcoholics Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous meetings. The Fairfax County Public Schools provide

one teacher and an aide and supplies to conduct year-round classes. Physical education is provided daily. Construction began to expand BPH's capacity from 12 to 22 youths in FY 1994; the new facility was completed in November 1996.

SUPERVISED RELEASE SERVICES — Supervised Release Services (SRS) is the new name for the program that encompasses the Outreach Detention Program and Detention Release Services. It provides highly structured supervision, monitoring, and services to juveniles who are awaiting adjudication or final disposition or charges, and might otherwise be detained at the Juvenile Detention Center or placed at the Less Secure Shelter. Judges may release juveniles to SRS at a detention hearing or, less often, at an adjudicatory hearing on the condition that they follow rules established by the Court in conjunction with SRS staff. SRS staff have caseloads of up to 12 juveniles each. Except when electronic monitoring is ordered, SRS staff meet with the assigned juveniles immediately after their release to SRS, or within 24 hours, to establish SRS rules as required by State minimum standards. Staff also orient juveniles to other expectations, such as frequency and place of visits, and sanctions for rule violations. SRS staff visit juveniles four times per week, and at least once every other day, including weekdays, weekends, and holidays. Visits take place at a juvenile's home, place of employment, or school. Staff contact parents or guardians at least weekly.

Figures 30, 31, 32, and 33 provide activity indicators for the Court's specialized and education programs and residential facilities, as well as utilization rates and costs for the residential facilities.

FIGURE 30

FAMILY COUNSELING SERVICES, FY 1997

Type of Case	Court-Ordered	Voluntary	Total	% of Total
Juvenile				
Delinquent/CHINS	78	152	230	53.1
Diagnostic Evaluation	51	NA	51	11.8
Adult				
Domestic Relations	<u>97</u>	<u>55</u>	<u>152</u>	<u>35.1</u>
Total Services	226	207	433	100.0%
% of Total	52.2%	47.8%	100.0%	

FIGURE 31

VOLUNTEER SERVICES, FY 1992-1997

Court Volunteer Programs	FY 1992	FY 1993	FY 1994	FY 1995	FY 1996	FY 1997
No. of volunteers	196	354	312	445	430	398
No. of volunteer-hours	15,151	17,610	15,049	19,504	21,764	25,203
Volunteer Learning Program						
No. of volunteer tutors	277	248	231	199	227	233
No. of volunteer-hours	11,513	10,642	9,854	9,094	9,296	9,143

FIGURE 32

UTILIZATION AND COSTS OF RESIDENTIAL FACILITIES, FY 1997

Facilities	Child Care Days²	Avg. Length of Stay for Those Released	Utilization Rate¹	Cost Per Child Care Day
Girls Probation House	3,651	93.0	97.5%	\$111.00
Boys Probation House	5,087	117.0	114.7%	\$105.00
Less Secure Shelter	5,661	24.0	129.2%	\$92.00
Juvenile Detention Center ³	29,497	20.0	146.9% ³	\$90.00
Supervised Release Services ⁴	22,931	40.0	120.0%	\$26.00

¹ Usage by Fairfax County cases only. Placements of youths from other jurisdictions are not included.

² Child care days at Girls Probation House, Boys Probation House and Outreach Detention include all youths while child care days at JDC and Less Secure include only youths released during FY 1996.

³ The bed capacity at JDC increased from 44 to 55 beds in FY 1993.

⁴ The Supervised Release Services Program began in 1997 and combines Outreach Detention and Detention Release Services.

FIGURE 33

CASELOADS OF PROGRAMS AND RESIDENTIAL FACILITIES FY 1992-1997

COURT PROGRAMS	Number of Cases¹					
Specialized Programs	FY1992	FY1993	FY 1994	FY 1995	FY 1996	FY 1997
Psychological Evaluations						
(Court Psychologists)	167	224	221	226	260	293
Diagnostic Team	28	47	38	38	25	26
Interdisciplinary Team ⁶	48	91	56	81	61	120
Work Training Program	287	225	230	196	212	0
Community Service Project	693	695	821	859	861	1,067
Family Counseling Program ³	313	328	351	346	298	333
Special Placements Program	48	73	84	64	58	41
Juvenile Traffic School	1,213	943	994	980	917	1,167
Volunteer Sponsor Program ⁸	-	25	26	25	18	14
Volunteer Interpreter Program ⁹	-	-	-	29	134	914
Education Programs						
Falls Bridge School	19	14	21	17	19	22
Hillwood School	17	14	15	15	15	12
Sager School	20	23	30	29	28	38
Gunston (South County) School ⁵	38	27	27	17	24	27
The Enterprise School ²	36	36	35	36	36	21
Volunteer Learning Program ²	296	267	256	189	173	195
Independent Study Program ⁷	-	-	36	70	76	92
Placements⁴						
Boys Probation House	32	34	31	40	33	57
Girls Probation House	41	37	39	53	58	40
Outreach Detention	339	362	367	380	457	494
Less Secure Shelter	119	133	144	175	178	257
Juvenile Detention Center	1,024	954	1,215	1,444	1,557	1,595

¹ The "number of cases" refers to all cases active on July 1, plus all new cases during the fiscal year.

² Includes Court-referred and non-Court-referred learners.

³ Includes only counseling cases, not diagnostic evaluations.

⁴ Includes Fairfax County cases only.

⁵ One teacher's aide added in FY 1990.

⁶ Interdisciplinary Team established in FY 1990.

⁷ Began in FY 1992.

⁸ Began in FY 1993.

⁹ Began in FY 1995.

IV. ADULT CASE PROCESSING

DOMESTIC RELATIONS CASE PROCESSING

In November, 1986, Fairfax Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court organized probation services into two separate “tracks”: Juvenile Intake and Probation Services and Domestic Relations Intake and Services. These changes were implemented so people experiencing domestic problems could receive specialized services beginning at the intake level and continuing through the subsequent Court process.

Staff were available to provide these extra services because responsibility for support enforcement was transferred from the Court Service Unit to the Division of Child Support Enforcement, a state agency. This transfer was mandated by new federal and state laws.

Domestic Relations Services (DRS) handles all adult criminal offenses and family (custody, support, visitation and domestic violence) complaints.

ADULT CRIMINAL CASE PROCESSING

Crimes committed between members of a family and crimes committed by an adult against a juvenile are under the jurisdiction of the Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court. These offenses are brought to the attention of the Court either by a police officer witnessing an offense or learning of it as a result of an investigation, or by a citizen or member of the family acting as complainant.

If a police officer determines that a crime has been committed between members of a family or by an adult against a juvenile, the adult offender is arrested and brought before the special magistrate. If a member of the family or citizen is acting as complainant, the victim must go before the special magistrate and swear that the person has committed an offense. If the special magistrate believes that there is probable cause that an offense was committed, a warrant is issued and the alleged offender is arrested.

Adult misdemeanor charges under the Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court’s jurisdiction are heard in their entirety in the Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court. Domestic Relations has two adult probation officers who provide pre-sentencing reports for the Court and who supervise misdemeanants who are placed on probation. Preliminary hearings are conducted for adult felonies and if the charge is reduced, the entire case is heard. If the charge is not reduced and the preliminary hearing reveals probable cause, the case is referred to the Grand Jury.

The complaints received against adults in FY 1997 by race and sex appear in Figure 34. The numbers of adult complaints from FY 1992-FY 1997 are presented in Figure 35. Figure 36 shows the number of adult offenders from FY 1995-FY 1997, as well as the changing proportions of first-offenders to repeat-offenders, and of first-offenders who return to Intake for new charges within the fiscal year to first-offenders who do not return. These figures refer to support and criminal cases.

FIGURE 34

ADULT COMPLAINTS RECEIVED BY RACE AND SEX FY 1997

	WM	WF	NWM	NWF	TOTAL
Property Offenses					
Breaking and Entering/ Illegal Entry	6	1	40	6	53
Destruction of Property	11	0	14	5	30
Trespassing	11	0	17	1	29
Theft	4	0	11	2	17
Other	<u>10</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>90</u>	<u>23</u>	<u>130</u>
SUBTOTAL	42	8	172	37	259
% of Total Property Offenses	16.2%	3.1%	66.4%	14.3%	100%
Offenses Against Persons					
Assault	267	30	989	166	1,452
Contributing	19	4	158	45	226
Telephone Abuse	22	1	41	13	77
Abduction	8	0	26	4	38
Brandishing Weapon	4	0	11	0	15
Murder	0	0	2	0	2
Curse and Abuse	1	1	4	2	8
Purchase Liquor for Minor	1	0	0	1	2
Other	<u>4</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>27</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>38</u>
SUBTOTAL	326	38	1,258	236	1,858
% of Total Offenses Against Persons	17.6%	2.0%	67.7%	12.7%	100%
Sex Offenses					
Rape	2	0	16	8	26
Indecent Liberties/ Exposure	5	0	19	0	24
Sexual Assault	3	0	20	0	23
Sodomy	3	1	13	1	18
Other	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>16</u>
SUBTOTAL	14	1	83	9	107
% of Total Sex Offenses	13.1%	0.9%	77.6%	8.4%	100%
Domestic Relations					
Non Support — Virginia	1,121	158	1,677	192	3,148
Non Support — Out of State	2	0	23	2	27
Domestic Problems	<u>3</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>26</u>
SUBTOTAL	1,126	158	1,721	196	3,201
% of Total Domestic Relations Complaints	35.2%	4.9%	53.8%	6.1%	100%
Other					
Rule, Capias	478	108	667	208	1,461
See Intake Counselors for Information	5	1	6	1	13
Pre-trial Motion	0	0	0	1	1
Other	<u>279</u>	<u>63</u>	<u>533</u>	<u>139</u>	<u>1,014</u>
SUBTOTAL	762	172	1,206	349	2,489
% of Total Other Complaints	30.6%	6.9%	48.5%	14.0%	100%
TOTAL	2,270	377	4,440	827	7,914
% of Total Complaints	28.7%	4.8%	56.1%	10.4%	100%

WM White Males
WF White Females
NWM Non-White Males
NWF Non-White Females

FIGURE 35

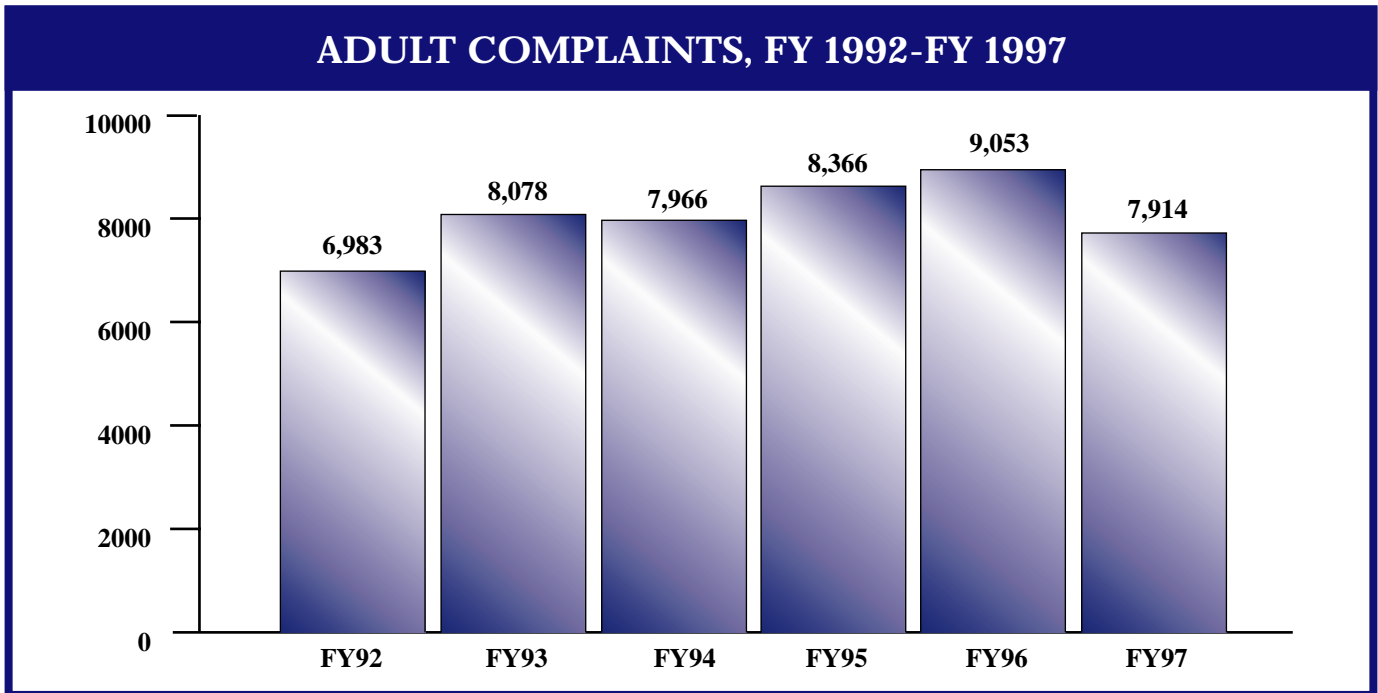


FIGURE 36

ADULT OFFENDER COUNTS AND RECIDIVISM TRENDS FY 1995-FY 1997						
	FY 1995		FY 1996		FY 1997	
Alleged offenders in given year <i>with</i> complaints in previous year	2,029	(38.2%)	2,134	(38.5%)	1,809	(34.2%)
Alleged offenders in given year <i>without</i> complaints in previous years:						
• who <i>do return</i> to court that year	521	(9.8%)	569	(10.2%)	622	(12.0%)
• who <i>do not return</i> to court that year	2,764	(52.0%)	2,846	(51.3%)	2,759	(53.1%)
TOTAL	5,314	(100.0%)	5,549	(100.0%)	5,190	(100.0%)
Average No. of Complaints per Alleged Offender in Given Year	1.57		1.63		1.52	

Alleged adult offenders who are arrested early in the day are scheduled for an arraignment hearing the same day. At this hearing the defendant is formally charged, bond conditions are set or a determination regarding release on recognizance is made. The defendant is informed of the right to counsel, which provides for a Court-appointed attorney if the defendant cannot afford one. If the conditions of bond are met by the defendant or if the defendant is released on recognizance (r.o.r.), he or she is released from custody and instructed to

appear before the Court at a later date. If the bond is not posted, the defendant remains in the Fairfax Adult Detention Center. If the arrest occurs when Court is not in session, the special magistrate sets bond or releases the adult on recognizance. If the bond is not met, the defendant is kept in the Adult Detention Center until the next working day, at which time the defendant is brought to Court for arraignment. If withdrawal of the charges is requested by the complainant, the Commonwealth's Attorney's Office must agree to the withdrawal.

Figure 37 shows average times required to process adult complaints through the various stages for each of the past three fiscal years.

Final dispositions available in adult cases include jail sentences and probation. In juvenile cases when a child is over 15 and treated as an adult in Juvenile Court, the same dispositions, including jail sentences, may be

used. Figure 38 shows the changing distribution of adult complaints by race and sex since FY 1992.

Adults who are found guilty in Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court are often referred to Domestic Relations Services for pre-sentencing reports and probation supervision.

FIGURE 37

AVERAGE PROCESSING TIMES (CALENDAR DAYS) FOR ADULT COMPLAINTS, FY 1995-FY 1997

PROCESSING STAGE	RELEVANT SUBGROUP OF CASES	FY 1995	FY 1996	FY 1997
Alleged offense to intake	Complaints which specify date of alleged offense	17.9	14.8	23.4
Intake to first hearing	Complaints set for court <i>more than 3 days</i> after intake	37.4	*	*
Assignment of social investigation to hearing on report	Cases in which judge orders investigation	88.3	74.9	60.0

* Unavailable for FY 1997

FIGURE 38

ADULT COMPLAINT RACE AND SEX DISTRIBUTION TREND FY 1992-FY 1997

	FY 1992	FY 1993	FY 1994	FY 1995	FY 1996	FY 1997
N=*	5,617	6,490	6,391	6,643	7,126	6,439
White Male %	49.8%	44.7%	44.1%	43.4%	40.2%	27.7
White Female	6.1%	6.5%	6.3%	6.5%	7.2	4.2
Non-White Male	39.4%	44.6%	44.0%	44.4%	45.9	58.5
Non-White Female	<u>4.7%</u>	<u>4.2%</u>	<u>5.5%</u>	<u>5.7%</u>	<u>6.7</u>	<u>9.6</u>
TOTAL	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

* Rules, capiases, reviews, attorney appointments, pre-trial motions, seeing intake counselors for information, and leaving without seeing an intake counselor are not counted.

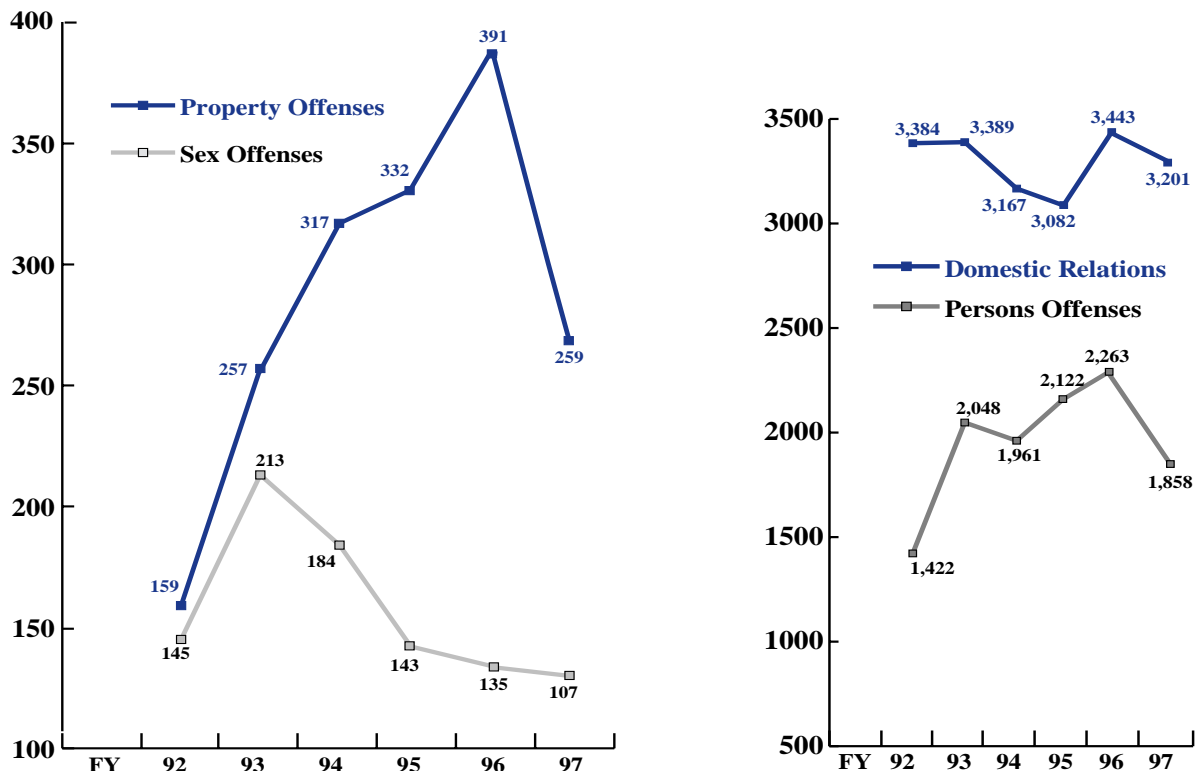
ADULT COMPLAINTS

SUMMARY OF HIGHLIGHTS

- The Court received a total of 7,914 adult complaints in FY 1997, a decrease of 12.6 percent over the 9,053 complaints received in FY 1996.
- Support and domestic problems complaints composed more than two-fifths (40.0 percent) of all adult complaints received.
- Offenses against persons complaints decreased 18.0 percent, from 2,263 in FY 1996 to 1,858 in FY 1997.
- Property complaints dropped by one-third, from 391 in FY 1996 to 259 in FY 1997.
- There was a 20.7 percent decrease in the number of sex offense complaints this year, from 135 in FY 1996 to 107 in FY 1997. Three years ago, sex offenses had increased 47 percent, and had previously leveled off.
- Domestic relations complaints decreased 6.1 percent to 3,148 in FY 1997. There was a 22.4 percent increase in complaints for “other” types of events (primarily administrative, such as rules, capiases, and pre-trial motions).

FIGURE 39

TRENDS IN TYPES OF ADULT COMPLAINTS FY 1992-FY 1997



SUPPORT, CUSTODY AND VISITATION COMPLAINT CASE PROCESSING

The most common adult offense, and the one with the highest incidence of recidivism, is non-support. This is usually a civil matter rather than a criminal charge. Persons who need support from a spouse or the parent of their children, may file a petition for support through the Domestic Relations Services intake department. The intake officer will authorize a petition, obtain a court date, and schedule a pre-hearing conference where both parties will be present and the intake officer will attempt to mediate a settlement. If negotiations are unsuccessful, both parties receive assistance in preparing for the trial.

Outgoing and incoming URESA cases (Uniform Reciprocal Enforcement of Support Act) are filed when the petitioner and respondent live in different states. In an out-going reciprocal, a petitioner will file for support against an individual in another state. The petitioner then appears before a judge to swear that the contents of the petition are true. The Court sends the petition to the court having jurisdiction where the respondent is in residence. If the respondent is located by the other court, that court has the responsibility for entering and enforcing an order. An incoming reciprocal is the opposite of an outgoing reciprocal. A petitioner in another state files against a respondent in Fairfax County. The Court sets a hearing at which time the respondent is placed under an order.

Division of Child Support Enforcement (D.C.S.E.), a State agency, processes all out-going URESA child support petitions. Domestic Relations Services processes out-going URESA spousal support petitions.

Support payments for all URESA cases are processed through D.C.S.E. and that agency is responsible for enforcement of the child support orders. The Commonwealth's Attorney's Office enforces spousal support orders.

Orders involving child or spousal support which are made in the Circuit Court as a result of divorce or pre-divorce actions can be delegated to the Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court for enforcement and modification. Finally, support orders can result from a juvenile action when the custody of a juvenile is granted to someone other than the legal parents; the judge may order that the legal parents pay support for their child to the guardians, or to the residential facility where the child has been placed.

At the request of the petitioner or respondent, local orders may also require that payments be collected by D.C.S.E. A petitioner may also request enforcement services from that agency.

If payments are made directly to the payee (instead of through D.C.S.E.), the petitioner is responsible for enforcing the order. To do this, motions for wage assignments, contempt proceedings and other enforcement mechanisms are filed through Domestic Relations Services.

Custody and visitation issues are processed in the same manner as local support matters, with an attempt made to mediate a settlement whenever possible. Any agreements reached in support, custody and visitation matters can be entered as an order of the Court in the form of a consent order. When custody or visitation problems go to trial, the judge sometimes orders a home study, which is an investigation of the physical, emotional and educational needs of the children and the ability of each parent to meet those needs. The custody investigator submits a report to the court prior to the dispositional hearing and testifies at the hearing. The Code of Virginia prohibits an intake officer from denying petitions for custody, support and visitation. However, an intake officer does point out jurisdictional and venue issues and explains options to the petitioners.

FAMILY ABUSE

Since 1984, persons who have been physically abused by a family member can obtain a civil protective order in Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court. The victim of abuse discusses the problems with an intake counselor who then draws up an affidavit and petition. If the petitioner is in imminent danger of further abuse, the judge may sign a temporary protective order pending a full court hearing. Fairfax County Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court has a counselor, the domestic violence services coordinator (DVSC), who specializes in assisting families who are experiencing domestic violence. The DVSC does the intake work, monitors compliance with court orders, and provides other advisory and counseling services. In FY 1993, a Code change went into effect which broadened the definition of family when referring to domestic disputes to include non-related people living together.

FIGURE 40

SUPPORT ACCOUNTS AND AMOUNTS COLLECTED FOR SUPPORT, FINES, COSTS, AND RESTITUTION, FY 1984-1997

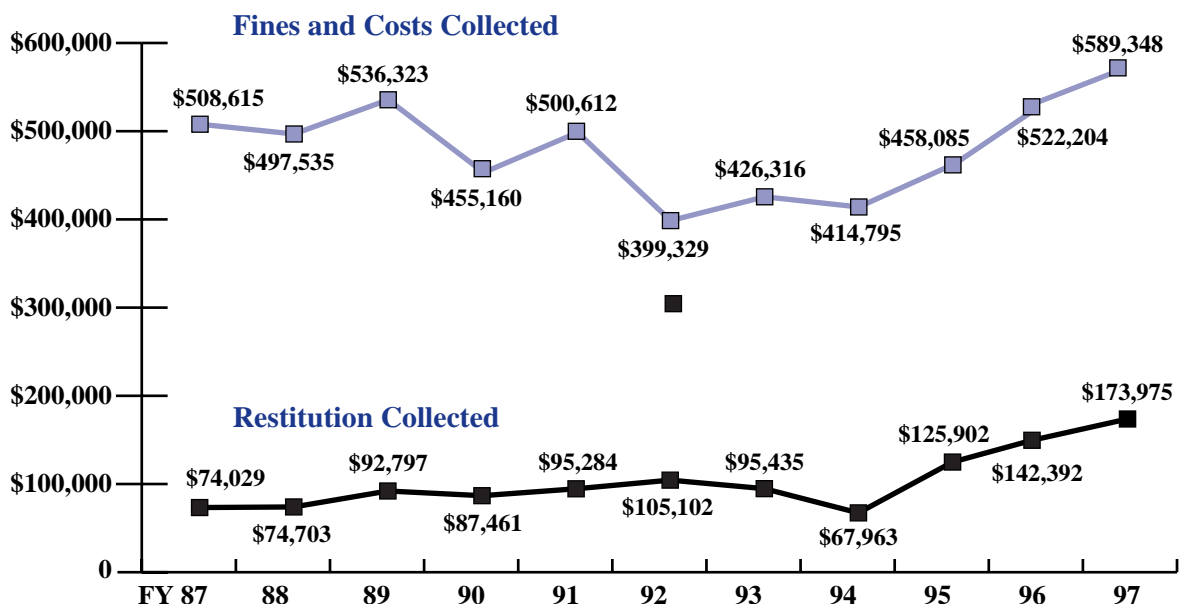
No. of	Support	Collection Rate	Amt. Collected	Restitution	Fines	Costs	Fines & Costs
	Accounts	Support	Amt. Due	Collected	Collected	Collected	Collected
		Collected					
1984	4,055	6,350,124.51	78.7%	71,630.60	227,393.00	114,453.00	341,846.00
1985	4,429	7,176,192.96	77.9%	76,403.79	249,371.25	139,036.50	388,407.75
1986	3,814	7,277,405.69	71.4%	73,330.76	238,190.48	129,770.75	367,961.23
1987 ¹	523	873,120.14	44.8%	74,028.78	328,295.57	180,319.35	508,614.92
1988	—	—	—	74,702.85	323,397.47	174,137.10	497,534.57
1989	—	—	—	92,797.60 ²	388,540.78	147,781.96	536,322.74
1990	—	—	—	87,460.80	288,906.66	166,252.94	455,159.60
1991	—	—	—	95,284.00	324,808.90	175,803.02	500,611.92
1992	—	—	—	105,101.57	280,429.00	118,900.00	399,329.00
1993	—	—	—	95,435.39	263,085.66	163,229.86	426,315.52
1994	—	—	—	67,962.60	254,944.28	159,850.35	414,794.63
1995	—	—	—	125,901.96	268,617.76	189,467.72	458,085.48
1996	—	—	—	142,392.33	308,109.06	214,095.32	522,204.38
1997	—	—	—	173,975.18	349,227.73	240,620.55	589,848.28

¹ In 1986, responsibility for support enforcement was transferred from the court service unit to the Division of Child Support Enforcement, a State agency. Support collection figures for Fairfax County will no longer be reflected in this report.

² In FY 1989, collection of restitution was placed at Central Intake.

FIGURE 41

RESTITUTION, FINES AND COSTS COLLECTED, FY 1987-FY 1997



V. RESEARCH, INFORMATION AND TRAINING

JUVENILE COURT GRANTS

Court staff continued to work on three grants previously awarded by the Department of Criminal Justice Services — a Detention Release and Services (DRS) program grant, a research grant entitled, “Influences on Decision-Making at Intake,” and Comprehensive Community Corrections Act funding for the Domestic Relations Unit.

Two new grants written in FY 1997 were awarded to the Court in FY 1998. The first, the Maximize Attendance Program (MAP), is a unit of services specifically targeted at and designed for youth who have been adjudicated as truant by the Court. The program will be staffed by two probation counselors and provide intensive supervision of youth with a graduated system of sanctions, monitoring of treatment services, expectation of parental involvement, and coordination with school system personnel.

The second grant, funded by the V-STOP, Violence Against Women Act Program, will be used by the Court to provide a bilingual Victim Services Counselor to increase access to services and reduce victim’s waiting time to have protection orders taken by taking protection orders in the evening. This will improve the Court’s responsiveness towards limited-English speaking victims.

The DRS program, which ran from FY 1993, ended at the end of FY 1998 and was combined with the Outreach Detention Program to become Supervised Release Services. The program was developed to reduce the overrepresentation of minority youths in secure detention facilities and chronic secure detention overcrowding. Similar to house arrest, the program provides highly structured supervision to children who have been released from the Juvenile Detention Center and who are either awaiting trial or final outcome of their cases. Electronic monitoring was added in FY 1995. The grant, currently in its fourth year, funds two counselors who make unannounced visits to youths at home or in school four times or more per week. A Replication Guide, completed last year, includes detailed information on the goals of the program; organization and management; staffing patterns; operational design and procedures,

including referral process, eligibility criteria, caseload size, work schedule, and services; informational materials, including program brochures in English and Spanish; and the evaluation plan. Findings from the second year evaluation of DRS are presented in the next section.

The research grant, “Influences on Decision-Making at Intake,” was designed to test new strategies at the intake level that might lead to a reduction in the disparity in the use of detention of minority youths. It was also intended to increase uniformity in intake and detention decision-making through the development and implementation of detention guidelines, reduce the opportunity for discretionary handling of juvenile offenders at intake, and determine whether staff knowledge of the race or other ethnically-identifying information of an accused juvenile led to differential handling at intake. Data was collected on 250 cases seen at intake for a detainable offense. The final report will be available in FY 1998.

Over the past few years, the Court has experienced a doubling of domestic violence cases and the increased workload resulted in severe backlogs. The Juvenile Court Domestic Relations Unit, with funding from the Comprehensive Community Corrections Act, is providing supervision and monitoring services to a population of men and women under court order for monitoring in lieu of being ordered into probation. The grant provides funding for two Probation Counselor II positions, who are responsible for supervising adult misdemeanor offenders ordered to complete anger management therapy, substance abuse counseling, and/or other community-based programs. All offenders served are eligible for jail and are facing criminal charges. The monitoring service offered through the grant fills a major service gap. In FY 1997, the program served more than 450 offenders.

FINDINGS FROM RESEARCH STUDIES AND REPORTS

The Research Analysts in the Court Director’s Office completed several studies and reports during the year. A brief description and highlights of findings follow. Copies of full reports are available upon request from the Research Analysts.

- **Review Team Assessment of the Girls Probation House (GPH).** As part of an ongoing internal review, the Residential Services Division undertook an assessment of GPH. The five-member Review Team was composed of managers of the five residential programs and the Court research analysts. Staff and residents were interviewed and a focus group discussion was held with parents. Probation and parole counselors and judges were also surveyed. Findings showed judges, probation counselors, parents and residents were positive in their feedback on the program and staff. Fourteen recommendations were made, including providing review staff management, clarifying the identity of the GPH program and treatment philosophy, improving morale, improving communication with families, providing more staff training, upgrading the facility whenever possible, and organizing a detailed examination of the runaway rate.
- **Evaluation of Boys Probation House (BPH).** The study was undertaken to assess the long-term effectiveness of the program over three cohorts of residents. The BPH program successfully achieved majority of its long-term outcome objectives — successfully improving the attitudes and behavior of those who successfully completed it, as well as increasing their grade point averages (GPA). The vast majority of residents' parents felt that the program helped their sons while they were in it; more than 90% of all parents surveyed reported they were satisfied with the services their sons received in BPH. Key study findings showed that 26% successfully completed BPH, 43% were terminated, and 31% ran away. While there were no differences at admission between the three groups of youths, those who successfully completed BPH improved their GPAs more than terminated youths or youths who ran away. Further, successfully discharged youths had significant changes for the better in their attitudes, especially in their personal values and attitudes toward authority, which reflects interpersonal and relationship skills, a preeminent program focus. They also reduced their degree of alienation. Slightly over 63% of the boys did not have contact for a delinquency offense up to two years after discharge. Key recommendations were made to find a way to increase youths' length of stay in BPH; expand the program to include more transitional services after completion; and add a full or part-time substance abuse counselor to work with substance-involved youths and families.
- **Evaluation of the Domestic Relations Comprehensive Community Corrections Act program.** Violation data was collected for all cases received since the grant start date of July 1995. A total of 579 cases were handled as of June 30, 1997. Out of the 603 cases handled since the beginning of the grant, 106 (18%) were violated at some time for failure to comply with the conditions of their court orders. The objective that 80% of family violence defendants comply with the conditions of their court orders was achieved. Results also showed that 46 defendants (8.4%) were rearrested during the one year after they were ordered into treatment. Therefore, the objective to ensure that 80% of family violence offenders are not brought back to court for violations of orders for court-ordered treatment resulting from criminal charges up to one year after issuance was achieved.
- **Fairfax County Detention Release and Services (DRS) Program.** A presentation on the organization, staffing, statistics, and program outcomes of the DRS program was prepared for Joseph D. Fedeli, the Director for Residential Services. The presentation was given at the 1997 Juvenile Justice Conference, in Williamsburg, VA.
- **Medicaid Intensive In-Home Services Pilot Project Process Evaluation.** In cooperation with the Department of Family Services, the Court conducted interviews with Community Services Board staff involved in the pilot project, review program documentation, site visited all vendors, and interviewed case managers and contract specialists. Benefits of the program were that it provided a level of intensity of services needed by seriously emotionally disturbed youth, accessed an additional source of funding, and provided funding for youth who might have otherwise not been served.
- **Human Services Crime in the Community Challenge Indicators.** Research staff participated in the development of the indicators and produced data used for the report on juveniles and adults in probation, violent juvenile offenses, residential services alternatives, and secure detention.
- **Evaluation of the Implementation of CSA Streamlining Workgroup Recommendations for Changes to CSA Procedures and Policy.** The Workgroup conducted surveys of Human Service workers and case managers six months after implementation of the Streamlining Workgroup recommendations. Findings showed that the

implementation of the recommendations has eased the burden of CSA for Human Service staff.

- **Trends in Juvenile Crime in Fairfax County.** A presentation on juvenile and adult crime was prepared for the Director of Probation Services, James S. Dedes.

MANAGEMENT INFORMATION ACTIVITIES

In June, 1976, a computer system called JUVARE (Juvenile and Adult Recording and Evaluation System) was implemented. The system supports both Clerk of Court and Court Service Unit functions. These functions include complaint recording, hearing scheduling, order entry, defendant placements and the management of the delivery of probation, counseling, residential and other services. In addition to the case management and tracking functions, the automated database provides periodic management reports and serves as a resource for program evaluation and budget projections. Computer terminals and printers are available at all of the decentralized Court Service Unit locations as well as in the courthouse to provide system access to all Court staff.

A new docket subsystem was implemented in FY 1993, in conjunction with the County's Office of Research and Statistics. The new procedures were designed in response to several docket policy changes. The Court basically converted from a "master calendar" style system to a hybrid style that uses "master calendaring" for criminal cases and individualized dockets for civil cases.

The computer is responsible for distributing non-criminal cases equally to the judges' individualized dockets at the time of case filing. Each individualized case is set for a unique hearing time for a duration estimated by the case parties. Once assigned a case, a judge hears it through to its conclusion. This replaced a policy of having all cases appear at a set time and be heard as various parties were ready. This system did not provide for case continuity because several different judges could be involved in hearing various aspects of the case. Also, the Court began having one judge be assigned each week as the "chamber judge" to hear emergency matters not previously scheduled.

The new system maintains records of holidays, weekends, plus planned judge absences for vacations, meetings, conferences, etc. to prevent docketing on dates and times judges are not accessible. Additionally, the system provides cautions when attempts are made to schedule cases beyond the capacity of available judges. The new docket procedures are expected to reduce the wait period for civil case participants and generally improve the efficiency and control of all case scheduling issues.

In FY 1996, the Court transitioned from JUVARE to the State Supreme Court's Case Management System (CMS). This process separated the JUVARE case management system from the Supreme Court's CMS, requiring data entry clerks who enter court dispositions and court services staff to do duplicate data entry in both JUVARE and CMS. It is anticipated that this will be temporary until an integrated system can be developed.



James S. Dedes, Director for Probation Services, addresses the Court's Annual Day of Training on December 12, 1997.

TRAINING

The Court offers a diverse training program open to all court staff which was highlighted this year by an annual day of training event, specialized training events for management and clerical staff, and a series of in-service training programs. Over 250 court employees attended the December 12 training event which offered 12 workshops on topics such as home-based interventions, sex offender treatment, and residential treatment of juvenile delinquents.

Training highlights during the year included retreats for support staff, management staff, and unit staff.

Extensive computer training was also offered to all staff, including training on Windows 95, WordPerfect 6.1, Access, and Lotus Notes. Several seminars were offered for courtroom interpreters, mediation, and cultural diversity. The training department also sponsored staff participation in dozens of trainings offered through other agencies and at conferences.

The Training Coordinator continued to offer monthly orientations for new employees, and with other staff, to work on the development of a core curriculum for the Court.



Joseph D. Fedeli, Director of Residential Services, speaking at the Volunteer Recognition Program.

VI. HONORS AND AWARDS

Over 330 professional and support employees of the court and 225 men and women volunteers provide a wide variety of services to Fairfax County's families and children. They are recognized in many ways for their special contributions to the mission of the Court by awards and honors.

County Outstanding Performance Awards (OPA) were given to Thea Madsen and Scott Warner from the Outreach Detention Unit. Sheila Coffin and Linda Schnatterly, from Central Intake, Linda Work and Michelle Rodriguez, from Center County Services, and Diana Harrison from South County Services also received OPAs.

Letha Braesch received a Fairfax County Team Excellence Award from the Public Safety Information Technology Team. Angie Carrera received a Volunteer Administrator Service award from the Northern Virginia Association for Volunteer Administration, and Libby Kephart received the Don Smith Award from the Fairfax County Employees Advisory Council.

Eleven Court volunteers who had served at least five years were honored for their service with a special luncheon on April 25. Mary Holmes, a Volunteer Learning Program tutor at the Boys Probation House, received the Donna Sykes Memorial Award for Volunteer Excellence as the Outstanding Volunteer of FY 1997.



Rice Lilley, Director of Boys Probation House, presented the Donna Sykes Memorial Award for Volunteer Excellence to Mary Holmes, tutor with the Volunteer Learning Program.

VII. COMMENTS ON THE DATA

The statistics presented in this report are primarily derived from the JUVARE system. They are as accurate as the system will allow. Since 1976, the Court functions and procedures have expanded and there have been tremendous technological advancements in the computer industry. Over JUVARE's 17 year history, the system has experienced a continual expansion in scope and improvements in operational efficiency. In FY 1993, the Deputy County Executive for Human Services initiated a human services agencies redesign to provide for more coordinated and cost-efficient services. Included in this initiative was an effort to centralize information technology (IT) support for all human service agencies and the development of an Information Strategy Plan. The plan focuses on the reallocation of IT resources to provide cross-agency benefits rather than address independent agency needs. No substantive enhancements were made in JUVARE in FY 1997.

The data presented reflect not only the Court's activities but also the demographic characteristics of Fairfax County. Over the past several years the county's

juvenile "risk group" population has stabilized or declined slightly, resulting in a corresponding drop in delinquency and CHINS complaints.

On July 1, 1989, revisions in the Virginia Code made significant changes in the handling of CHINS complaints (truancy and runaway) by the Court. Adjudicated CHINS cases are reviewed by an interdisciplinary team to evaluate a child's service needs before final disposition, and complainants bringing CHINS charges must now demonstrate to the intake officer that they have exhausted available community resources before the complaint will be forwarded to the Court. As a result of these changes, CHINS complaints decreased by 56.2 percent in FY 1991. They have increased 153 percent since that time.

As the total county population continues to rise, the non-juvenile population has grown. Corresponding shifts in types of complaints to the Court have occurred. Child support and custody complaints represented 32% of all adult and juvenile non-traffic, non-administrative complaints in FY 1997.

